

FPSA: 1972-2026



**Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference
April 18, 2026**



**Saint Leo University
Saint Leo, Florida**

******All participants must register for the conference******

Preregistration before the conference day is \$75 for faculty and \$35 for students. All paper presenters, panel chairs, and discussants are asked to preregister. **Registration at the meeting is \$85 for faculty and \$40 for students.** Registration includes lunch, refreshments, and a subscription to *The Florida Political Chronicle*. For preregistration, please go to fpsanet.com.



FLORIDA POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION 2025-2026 Officers and Council Members

President: Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

First Vice President: Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, USF St. Petersburg, jsm2@usf.edu

Second Vice President: Marco Rimanelli, Saint Leo University, marco.rimanelli@saintleo.edu

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Past President: Kelly McHugh, Florida Southern College, kmchugh@flsouthern.edu

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marco.rimanelli@saintleo.edu

Editor, *The Political Scientist* Newsletter: Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University,
austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

Executive Council (staggered two-year terms)

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nortonj@lssc.edu



**Florida Political Science Association
2026 Annual Conference**

Arrangements Chair: **Dr. Austin Trantham**
Saint Leo University
austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

Program Chair: **Dr. Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan**
University of South Florida St. Petersburg
jsm2@usf.edu

Section	Section Chair	Contact Information
American National Politics	Austin Trantham Saint Leo University	austin.trantham@saintleo.edu
Comparative Politics	Houman Sadri IPAC & University of Central Florida	houman.sadri@ucf.edu
International Relations	Leah Blumenfeld Barry University	l Blumenfeld@barry.edu
Political Theory	Brian Kupfer Tallahassee State College	brian.kupfer@tcc.fl.edu
Public Policy / Public Administration	Douglas Rivero St. Petersburg College	rivero.douglas@spscollege.edu
Regional Security from World War I to Today	Marco Rimanelli Saint Leo University	marco.rimanelli@saintleo.edu
Roundtable: Teaching Political Science	Kelly McHugh Florida Southern College	kmchugh@flsouthern.edu
State & Local Government	Sean Foreman Barry University	sforeman@barry.edu

Program Schedule

*All panel sessions will be held in Kirk Hall or Selby Auditorium.
Lunch will be hosted in the Student Community Center Boardrooms.*

Registration	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Session 1*	8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
Break	10:00 AM to 10:15 AM
Session 2*	10:15 AM to 11:45 AM
Break:	11:45 AM to 12:00 PM
Lunch/Meeting	12:00 PM to 1:30 PM
Break:	1:30 PM to 1:45 PM
Session 3*	1:45 PM to 3:15 PM
Break	3:15 PM to 3:30 PM
Session 4*	3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

FPSA 2026 Annual Meeting Travel Information

Location: Saint Leo University

April 18, 2026

Lodging

Please use the links below to reserve rooms at area hotels.

Hotel	Location	Phone Number	Distance from Saint Leo University
Hampton Inn & Suites - Tampa/Wesley Chapel	2740 Cypress Ridge Blvd. Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	(813) 973-2288	15 minutes
Best Western - Wesley Chapel	5639 Oakley Blvd. Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	(813) 345-2000	15 minutes
Hilton Garden Inn Tampa-Wesley Chapel	26640 Silver Maple Pkwy Wesley Chapel, FL 33544	(813) 591-6900	20 minutes
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Tampa North/Wesley Chapel	2775 Cypress Ridge Blvd. Wesley Chapel, FL 33544	(813) 803-7899	20 minutes
Holiday Inn Express & Suites - New Tampa	8310 Galbraith Tampa, FL 33647	(813) 910-7171	20 minutes

Directions to Saint Leo University

From the North or South

Take Interstate 75 to Exit 285. Head east on State Road 52; about 1.2 miles. Turn left onto County Road 52. Follow County Road 52; about 2.4 miles to roundabout. Using the first right, Saint Leo University will be on your left. At the next traffic light, left at the main entrance onto Palm Boulevard. The main entrance is across the street from the Abbey Golf Course. At the next traffic light, left at the main entrance onto Palm Boulevard. The main entrance is across the street from the Abbey Golf Course.

From Orlando

Take Interstate 4 West to Interstate 75. Exit to the north, then take I-75 to Exit 285. Head east on State Road 52; about 1.2 miles. Turn left onto County Road 52. Follow County Road 52; about 2.4 miles to roundabout. Using the first right, Saint Leo University will be on your left. At the next traffic light, left at the main entrance onto Palm Boulevard. The main entrance is across the street from the Abbey Golf Course. The main entrance is across the street from the Abbey Golf Course. The average drive time from Orlando is approximately 90 minutes.

Campus Parking Information

Guests should park in the parking garage located under the Turf Stadium. Entering campus from the main entrance, proceed 1/4 of the way around the traffic circle, exiting to the right onto East Way. Follow the road until it ends and turn left onto Lions Street. The entrance to the parking garage is just past the Turf Stadium on your right.

FPSA Reception

The post-conference reception will be held from **5:00-6:00 p.m.** on the **Lakeside Patio** of the Saint Leo University campus by beautiful Lake Jovita!

Please join us for hors d'oeuvres and continue your conversations from throughout the conference!

QR Code with Campus Map on Next Page



Saint Leo University Campus Map

Please use this **QR code** to access the
Saint Leo University Campus Map.

The Parking Garage is marked with a “**P**”
and is located just past the **Turf Stadium (#20).**

Kirk Hall is Building **#15.**
Selby Auditorium is Building **#14.**

The Student Community Center is Building **#41.**

The Lakeside Patio is directly behind the **Student
Community Center** and across from **The Bowl (#40).**

SESSION 1: 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM

Roundtable: *Teaching Political Science*, Selby Auditorium

Moderator: Kelly McHugh, Florida Southern College, kmchugh@flsouthern.edu

Panelists:

Giselle Jamison, Barry University, gjamison@barry.edu

Aubrey Jewett, University of Central Florida, aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Jeremy Norton, Lake-Sumter State College, nortonj@lssc.edu

Houman Sadri, IPAC & University of Central Florida, houman.sadri@ucf.edu

Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

American National Politics: *Media and Political Polarization*, Kirk Hall, Room 122

Chair & Discussant: Frank Orlando, Saint Leo University, francis.orlando@saintleo.edu

Digital Radicalization: How The Far Right Grew to National Prominence

Michael Baierlein, Florida Gulf Coast University, mbaierlein0964@eagle.fgcu.edu

A Civil War of Screens: How Partisan Media Fractures American Democracy

Ava Khlopin, Nova Southeastern University, avalindanyc@gmail.com

The Role of Partisan Media in Shaping Political Polarization in the United States

Hudson Llanes, Nova Southeastern University, hl580@mynsu.nova.edu

Initial Exposure to Television and Rural Partisan Realignment

Elvis Williams, Florida State University, evw25b@fsu.edu

Sam Herrin, Florida State University, srh24d@fsu.edu

Comparative Politics: *Politics & Policies Among Diverse Developing Countries*, Kirk Hall, Room 202

Chair & Discussant: Marco Rimanelli, Saint Leo University, Marco.Rimanelli@saintleo.edu

Russia–Latin America Relations After 2022: Political and Economic Priorities

Ekaterina Kosevich, Stetson University & HSE University, ekaterina.kosevich@gmail.com

Developing the Workforce for the Future of Guyana

Robert W. Robertson, University of London, rroberts905@gmail.com

Educational Pathways and Political Success: A Comparative Analysis of the United States House of Representatives and the United Kingdom House of Commons

Colleen Kester, Saint Leo University, colleen.kester@email.saintleo.edu

Comparative Politics Graduate Panel: *Religion, Identity, Theory, and Political Behavior*, Kirk Hall, Room 209

Chair & Discussant: Peter Tase, Honorary Professor, Azerbaijan University of Languages,
pmtase@gmail.com

Who Gets the Votes: Religion, Moral Judgment, and Vote Choice

Sedinam Kumah, Florida International University, skuma029@fiu.edu

Sacred Nations and Political Violence: Hindutva, Path Dependence and Modern India

Holly Brown-Ramby, University of West Florida, hsb20@students.uwf.edu

Performance or Position? Rethinking Retrospective Voting in India

Anna Verma, University of Florida, annaverma@ufl.edu

Conflict as Moton: A Physics Perspective on Power

Greg McDowall, IPAC, gregdmcdowall@gmail.com

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Democracy, Law, and Political Institutions*, Kirk Hall, Room 218

Chair & Discussant: Dennis Mpere, University of Central Florida, dennis.mpere@ucf.edu

Unlikely Encounter: First Amendment Meets Foreign Policy

Lara Alsaad, University of Central Florida, la776711@ucf.edu

Which Kind of Politicization Is Most Injurious to Effective Decision-Making?

Alyssa Feige, University of Central Florida, al098245@ucf.edu

The Judicial Subversion of Democracy: Marine Le Pen and the Betrayal of Enlightenment Principles

Brandon Lee, University of Central Florida, br468081@ucf.edu

The Commerce Clause Transformed: A Critical Examination of Wickard v. Filburn

Naoki Yoshiue, University of Central Florida, naoki.yoshiue@ucf.edu

Leave the Gun, Take the Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Organized Crime, Political Corruption, and Government Efficiency

Emily Shute, Saint Leo University, emily.shute@email.saintleo.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Authoritarianism, Ideology, and Political Power*, Kirk Hall, Room 219

Chair & Discussant: Olusumbo Adeyemi, University of Central Florida, olusumbo.adeyemi@ucf.edu

How Do Authoritarian Regimes Keep Their Grasp onto Power?

Vincent Cafiero, University of Central Florida, vi869932@ucf.edu

Gustav Stresemann: Contributions to International Politics

Victoria Leiva Gonzalez, University of Central Florida, vi656010@ucf.edu

The Contrasting Leadership, Ideologies, and Power Structures of Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union

Vanessa Yamileth Rojas Lazo, University of Central Florida, va747616@ucf.edu

SESSION 2: 10:15 AM to 11:45 AM

American National Politics: *Social Policy, Identity and Trust*, Kirk Hall Room 122

Chair: Javier M. Rodriguez, University of Florida, javierrodriguez@ufl.edu

Discussant: Hudson Reynolds, Saint Leo University (Emeritus), hud.reynolds@gmail.com

Societal Complexities: Opioid Addiction and Government Healthcare Spending

Jean Anjos, Nova Southeastern University, ja1310@mynsu.nova.edu

Born to Be a Leader, Forced to Be a Woman: How Gender Roles Affect the Integration of Women into Male Professions

Danielle Contes, Nova Southeastern University, dc2778@mynsu.nova.edu

Disentangling Politics from Political Economy in Inequality and Health

Javier M. Rodriguez, University of Florida, javierrodriguez@ufl.edu

The Importance of NEPA Beyond the Environment

Emma Kelliher, Eckerd College, ekelliher@eckerd.edu

On the Arguments Against the Death Penalty: A Research Analysis on Deterrence Failure

Justin Zisk, Nova Southeastern University, jz468@mynsu.nova.edu

**Comparative Politics: *New Developments in Eurasia & the Middle East*,
Kirk Hall, Room 202**

Chair & Discussant: : Ekaterina Kosevich, Stetson University & HSE University,
ekaterina.kosevich@gmail.com

The Social Structure of Islam and Democratic Dynamics in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan

Shaul Gabbay, Executive Director, Global Research Institute, gabbay@muslimworldexpert.com

Divergent Arab Spring Outcomes in Syria, Libya, and Egypt: A Comparative Analysis of Coercive Cohesion, State Capacity, and External Intervention

Danny Krikorian, Independent Scholar & Adjunct Instructor, dannykrikorian@gmail.com

The Accomplishments of Azerbaijan in International Diplomacy and European Security 2020–2025

Peter Tase, Honorary Professor, Azerbaijan University of Languages, pmtase@gmail.com

Azerbaijan's Non-Aligned Movement Strategy as a Model for Newly Independent States

Houman Sadri, University of Central Florida, Houman.Sadri@ucf.edu

Comparative Politics Graduate Panel: *Revolution, Civil War, and Political Violence*, Kirk Hall, Room 209

Chair & Discussant: Mr. Kasra Qaredaghi, University of Central Florida, kasra.qaredaghi@ucf.edu

Diffusion or Containment: The Effects of Revolutions on Neighboring Countries

Md Maniruzzaman Mamun, University of Florida, md.mamun@ufl.edu

Who Rebels First? How Does Sociopolitical Embeddedness Impact Civil War Onset?

Kasra Qaredaghi, University of Central Florida, kasra.qaredaghi@ucf.edu

From Boardrooms to Barracks: Why Privatizing Military Businesses Succeeded in Argentina but Failed in Indonesia

Prajakta R. Gupte, University of Florida, prajakta.gupte@ufl.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Russia, Eurasia, and Contemporary Geopolitics*, Kirk Hall, Room 219

Chair & Discussant: Greg McDowall, IPAC, gregmcdowall@gmail.com

Security Dilemma in the Modern Day between Russia and the United States

Catalina Banciella, University of Central Florida, Catalina.Banciella@ucf.edu

A Prediction of the Russo-Ukraine War: How Will This Conflict Look in the Near and Far Future?

Camile Barrios, University of Central Florida, ca955200@ucf.edu

Project AZORIAN: A CIA Covert/Clandestine Operation

Madeline Cole, University of Central Florida, ma153471@ucf.edu

Comparative Politics: *Security, Terrorism, and Strategic Competition*, Kirk Hall, Room 218

Chair & Discussant: Alejandro Trenchi, University of Florida, atrenchi@ufl.edu

How Realistic Is U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense?

Tiffany Dixon, University of Central Florida, ti265478@ucf.edu

Strains of the Global Order: Terrorism, Failed States, and Institutional Reform

Mark Gruenbaum, University of Central Florida, ma230968@ucf.edu

The Evolution of Counterterrorism Efforts within the United States: From International Policy to Domestic Terrorism

Evynn Monzingo, University of Central Florida, ev606618@ucf.edu

Al-Shabaab: One of the Top Active Terrorist Organizations in 2025

Valerie Pastrana, University of Central Florida, va508209@ucf.edu

International Relations: *Relationality: Uganda and the United States Since 1945*. Kirk Hall Room 318

Chair: Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, jsm2@usf.edu

Discussant: Edward Silvestre Kaweesi, Center for the Study of the United States, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, kaweesiesilve@gmail.com

Counterterrorism as Relationality: Uganda-USA Relations since 1990.

Charlotte Karungi Mafumbo and Jacqueline Nakaiza, Center for the Study of the United States, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. charlotte.mafumbo@gmail.com

US-Uganda Relations through the Peace Corps Lens: Volunteers' Lived Experiences, Impact and Legacy.

Bernard Luwerekera, Center for the Study of the United States, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. ntototo@gmail.com

"When I was in America": Edu-relationality, Culture and Fulbright Scholars in Uganda's Public Universities.

Itah Patience Mbethki, Center for the Study of the United States, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. mbethkita@gmail.com

US – Uganda relations on matters of Constitutionalism and Rule of Law.

George Okiror, Center for the Study of the United States, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. George.Okiror@gmail.com

International Relations: *Undergraduate Panel II*, Kirk Hall, Room 302

Chair & Discussant: Douglas Rivero, St. Petersburg College, rivero.douglas@spcollege.edu

U.S. Refusal to Ratify Kyoto Protocol & Later Environment Deals

Lauren Hall, Saint Leo University, lauren.hall@email.saintleo.edu

Environmentalism in the International Community

Grayson Clapperton, Eckerd College, gsclapperton@eckerd.edu

The Right to Refuse: The Negative Effects of the Involvement of the United Nations in Forced Sterilization and Population Control

Ella Gibson, Ave Maria University, Ella.Gibson@my.avemaria.edu

Poetic Inquiry in Studying Mass Atrocity

Hannah Kobs, Eckerd College, hckobs@eckerd.edu

International Relations: *Regimes and Institutions*, Kirk Hall, Room 329

Chair & Discussant: Kelly A. McHugh, Florida Southern College, kmchugh@flsouthern.edu

Institutionalized Privilege or Discrimination? U.S. Trade Power and the Political Foundations of GATT

Glory Okereke, Florida International University, goker003@fiu.edu

Regime Change: The Rise and Decline of an Idea

Kelly A. McHugh, Florida Southern College, kmchugh@flsouthern.edu

International Institutions and Territorial Disputes: United Nations Voting on Chagos Islands

Nikola Mirilovic, University of Central Florida, Nikola.mirilovic@ucf.edu

State and Local Government: *Addresses and Elections*, Kirk Hall, Room 308

Chair: Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

Discussant: Bruce Anderson, Florida Southern College, randerson2@flsouthern.edu

Crisis, Controversy, and Credibility: Rhetorical Appeals in Governor Desantis' State of the State Addresses

Victoria Laird, University of Central Florida, vi548024@ucf.edu Aubrey

Jewett, University of Central Florida, Aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Southern Gubernatorial Inaugurals and the Politics of Identity, Values, and Policy

Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

J. Cherie Strachan, University of Akron, jcw39@uakron.edu

Parsing Partisan Change in Florida's Hispanic Electorate, 2014-2024 Seth C.

McKee, Oklahoma State University, mckee@okstate.edu Daniel A.

Smith, University of Florida, dasmith@ufl.edu

Kayla Tyson, University of Florida, krayne.tyson@ufl.edu

Local Shifts, National Echoes: Demographic Voting Behavior in Miami's 2025 Election

Daniel I. Pedreira, Florida International University, dpedreir@fiu.edu

Polarization without Perfect Partisan Alignment: Evidence from North Carolina

Abida Sultana, University of Florida, sultana.a@ufl.edu



Lunch and Business Meeting
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM
Student Community Center Boardrooms

Welcome to Saint Leo University

Welcoming Remarks



Dr. Marc Pugliese
Associate Dean, College of Arts, Sciences, and Allied Services
Saint Leo University

FPSA Business Meeting: 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM



Austin Trantham, FPSA President
Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

Roundtable on Florida Politics: 12:45 PM to 1:30 PM



Chair/Moderator: Aubrey Jewett, University of Central Florida,
aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Participants:

Bruce Anderson, Florida Southern College, randerson2@flsouthern.edu
Susan MacManus, University of South Florida, samacmanus@aol.com
Michael McDonald, University of Florida, michael.mcdonald@ufl.edu
Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, University of South Florida, jsm2@usf.edu

SESSION 3: 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

American National Politics: *American Political History*, Kirk Hall, Room 122

Chair and Discussant: Austin Trantham, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu

Crossing the Finish Line with Nixon in '68

John David Briley, East Tennessee State University, briley@mail.etsu.edu

Progressive or Practical? What Actually Influenced Congressional Voting on Amendments in the Progressive Era

Jacob Kaplan, University of Florida, jacobkaplan@ufl.edu

Gabriella Llanes, University of Florida, gabriellallanes@ufl.edu

Riley Shahin, University of Florida, rileyshahin@ufl.edu

The Age Before the Trust Buster and The Campaign of the Internet's Mayor

Angela Redman, Eckerd College, arredman@eckerd.edu

Before the 19th: Effects of Early Female Suffrage in Presidential Elections

Jay Thompson, College of Central Florida,, thompsoj@cf.edu

Herbert Hoover: The Steepest Fall from the Highest Mountain.

Constantinos E. ("Dino") Scaros, St. Petersburg College ces@sophiascholars.com

Comparative Politics Graduate Panel: *Elections, Protest, and Authoritarian Adaptation*, Kirk Hall, Room 202

Chair & Discussant: Robert Robertson, University of London, rroberts905@gmail.com

Authoritarian by Democratic Mandate: An Investigation into the Rise of Popular Authoritarian Regimes in Venezuela and El Salvador

Kenneth Kyle Bennett, Florida Atlantic University, kbennett2025@fau.edu

Protests, Elections, and Electoral Behaviors in Senegal and Burkina Faso

Victoria Farayola, University of Florida, farayolav@ufl.edu

Personalization, Institutionalization and Party Survival: A Cross-National Analysis of Political Parties in Africa

Ernest Asamoah, Florida International University, easam002@fiu.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Middle East, Identity, and Human Rights*, Kirk Hall, Room 209

Chair & Discussant: Houman Sadri, University of Central Florida, Houman.Sadri@ucf.edu

Women and Human Rights in Turkey

Elif Alper, University of Central Florida, el831117@ucf.edu

Between Secularization and Nationalism: The Politics of Modern Turkish Identity

Melis Howe, University of Central Florida, me417992@ucf.edu

From Ancient Diplomacy to Modern Sanctions: The Influence of Roman Fetial Priests on UN Policies, with North Korea as a Case Study

Paula Sevillano Lagioia, University of Central Florida, pa216339@ucf.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Information, Influence, and Global Political Economy*, Kirk Hall, Room 218

Chair & Discussant: Anna Verma, University of Florida, annaverma@ufl.edu

Disinformation, the Manosphere, and Its Effects on the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election

Micaela Gappen, University of Central Florida, mi256785@ucf.edu

How American Lobbying Impacts the International System: Domestic & Foreign Effects

Isabel Strong, University of Central Florida, isabel.strong@ucf.edu

Mitigating China's Belt and Road Initiative Influence in South America

Sebastian Urena, University of Central Florida, se689026@ucf.edu

International Relations: *Reframing Global Challenges*, Kirk Hall, Room 219

Chair & Discussant: Giselle Jamison, Barry University, gjamison@barry.edu

The Universal Cosmopolitan Blockchain

Kateryna Tsekhmayster, Florida Atlantic University, ktsekhmayste2022@fau.edu

Violence, Legitimacy, and Bargaining: Wartime Sexual Violence in Peace Agreement Design

Rachel Marriott, Florida State University, rsmarriott@fsu.edu

Winners, Losers, and the Displaced: Civil War Outcome Trajectory Signals as Displacement Indicators

Chloe J. Lopez, University of Florida, chloe.lopez@ufl.edu

Brazilian Oil, Petrobras, and US-China Rivalry

Kateryna Tsekhmayster, Florida Atlantic University, ktsekhmayste2022@fau.edu

The Labor Market Impacts of H-1B Workers: A Comprehensive Analysis of Wages and Employment Outcomes, 2015–2025

Danny Krikorian, The Purple Initiative, dannykrikorian@gmail.com

Regional Security from World War I to Today, Kirk Hall, Room 318

Chair & Discussant: Marco Rimanelli, Saint Leo University, Marco.Rimanelli@saintleo.edu

International Tribunals on Crimes against Humanity and Genocide: from the Constantinople/Istanbul and Malta Tribunals to Anglo-U.S. Qualms on Global Leadership vs. Idealism's Theory of an Imperfect System for World Peace

Marco Rimanelli, Saint Leo University, Marco.Rimanelli@saintleo.edu

International Tribunals on Crimes against Humanity and Genocide 2: from the League of Nations' Leipzig Tribunal to the International Tribunal on the ex-Yugoslavia Prosecuting President Milosevic

Joseph Cillo, J.D., Saint Leo University, Joseph.cillo@saintleo.edu

Theoretical Views of the Rwanda Genocide and its Tribunals

Camara Silver, CUNY-John Jay College, csilver@jjay.cuny.edu [via Zoom]

Ex-Sovietistans vs. New Great Games in Central Asia, 1992-2026

Yannis Pantzalis, Saint Leo University, ioannis.pantzalis02@email.saintleo.edu

Marco Rimanelli, Saint Leo University, Marco.Rimanelli@saintleo.edu

American National Politics: Extremism and Political Violence, Selby Auditorium

Chair & Discussant: Frank Orlando, Saint Leo University, francis.orlando@saintleo.edu

Trends in Polarization: Examining Rates of Political Violence in the United States

Ava Mercer, Florida Gulf Coast University, akmerc0554@eagle.fgcu.edu

The Psychological Nature of Left-Wing Authoritarianism in America

Antonio Laverghetta, Saint Leo University, antonio.laverghetta@saintleo.edu

The Outrage Industrial Complex and Catholic Moral Reasoning: A Philosophical-Theological Critique of a Culture of Contempt

Marc Pugliese, Saint Leo University, marc.pugliese@saintleo.edu

Randall Woodard, Saint Leo University, randall.woodard@saintleo.edu

State and Local Government: Teaching Florida Government and Politics, Kirk Hall, Room 329

Chair: J. Edwin Benton, University of South Florida, jbenton@usf.edu

Panelists:

Aubrey Jewett, University of Central Florida, Aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, University of South Florida, jsm2@usf.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: Governance, Security, and Mobility in Latin America, Kirk Hall, Room 308

Chair & Discussant: Annabelle Conroy, University of Central Florida, annabelle.conroy@ucf.edu

Centralism: The major constraint for a decentralized Ecuador.

Daniel Antonio Moreira Castaneda, University of Central Florida, da418126@ucf.edu

Social Alienation as a Cause of Internal Security Concerns in Latin America

Alexia Orban, University of Central Florida, alexia.orban@ucf.edu

Puerto Rico: Commonwealth or Colony?

Esther Rabinowitz, University of Central Florida, es915105@ucf.edu

Between Borders: The Reality of Immigration Limbo

Jennifer Valenzuela, University of Central Florida, je518030@ucf.edu

American Foreign Policy during the War of the Pacific

Flavio Figueroa, University of Central Florida, fl027193@ucf.edu

SESSION 4: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Professional Development Opportunities for Students, Kirk Hall, Room 122

Moderator & Organizer: Houman Sadri, University of Central Florida, houman.sadri@ucf.edu

Panelists:

Annabelle Conroy, annabelle.conroy@ucf.edu, University of Central Florida

Aubrey Jewett, aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu, University of Central Florida

Houman Sadri, houman.sadri@ucf.edu, University of Central Florida

Austin Trantham, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu, Saint Leo University

International Relations: Undergraduate Panel I, Kirk Hall, Room 318

Chair & Discussant: Kelly A. McHugh, Florida Southern College, kmchugh@flsouthern.edu

BRICS is Dead, Long Live the BRICS!

Ransford F. Edwards Jr., Nova Southeastern University redwards@nova.edu

Constanza Azul Andujar, Nova Southeastern University, ca1965@mynsu.nova.edu

Drekaria Miller, Nova Southeastern University, dm3358@mynsu.nova.edu

American Interventionism and its Role in Hegemonic Stability

Ben Baine, Flagler College, Baine231@flagler.edu

Explaining Political Instability in Ecuador: Institutional Breakdown, Narcotrafficking, and Violence

Kelsey (Kes) Smith, Eckerd College, klsmith1@eckerd.edu

American National Politics: *Democracy and Civic Life*, Kirk Hall, Room 329

Chair & Discussant: Joseph Cillo, Saint Leo University, joseph.cillo@saintleo.edu

Community Engagement and Civic Learning: a Research Note

John Anene, College of Central Florida, johnanene1990@gmail.com

Building Civic Understanding in Elementary Classrooms: Using Children's Literature to Teach Foundations of Democracy and U.S. National Identity

Shawn Brown, Saint Leo University, shawn.brown@saintleo.edu

The United States of America or the Divided States of America?

Erin Flynn, Eckerd College, emflynn@eckerd.edu

The Sovereign Supreme Court

Kateryna Tsekhmayster, Florida Atlantic University, ktsekhmayste2022@fau.edu

From Neutrality to Nondiscrimination: The Roberts Court and the Erosion of Liberty of Conscience

Ava Johnson, Eckerd College, ajohnson@eckerd.edu

Comparative Politics Graduate Panel: *Governance, Institutions, and the Political Economy of the State*, Kirk Hall, Room 202

Chair & Discussant: Danny Krikorian, Independent Scholar & Instructor, dannykrikorian@gmail.com

Security in the Digital Age: Bureaucratic Politics and Cyber Governance in Ghana

Dennis Mpere University of Central Florida, dennis.mpere@ucf.edu

Doris Afriyie, Ohio University, abrefisenyah@gmail.com

Seizing the State, Claiming the Soil: The Revolutionary Origins of Resource Nationalism

Alejandro Trenchi, University of Florida, atrenchi@ufl.edu

The Shadow Safety Valve: How Informal Economies Mitigate Protests in Weak States

Olusumbo Adeyemi, University of Central Florida, olusumbo.adeyemi@ucf.edu

Wael Benali, University of Central Florida, wael.benali@ucf.edu

Historical Legacies, Resettlement, and Political Behavior

Turan Keles, University of Central Florida, Turan.Keles@ucf.edu

Comparative Politics Undergraduate Panel: *Migration, Society, and Comparative Regional Politics*, Kirk Hall, Room 209

Chair & Discussant: Victoria Farayola, University of Florida, farayolav@ufl.edu

Wildlife Policy in the United States

Abigail Dunn, University of Central Florida, ab369909@ucf.edu

Examining Ireland: An Analysis of Irish Reunification and the Proposal of a New Constitutional Framework

Gracie Whitley, University of West Florida, gaw19@students.uwf.edu

Regional Security from World War I to Today, Kirk Hall, Room 219

Chair and Discussant: Marco Rimaneli, Saint Leo University, Marco.Rimaneli@saintleo.edu

Problems at Sea: the Making of a Modern Diplomatic Architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean

Balázs Bárány, Florida Atlantic University, balazsbarany97@gmail.com

Mathias Corvinus Collegium-Climate Policy Institute, Budapest, Hungary

International Duties of Consular Officers and Types of Cooperation with Law Enforcement in U.S.-Bahamas Relations

Consul-General Tyson McKenzie, Consulate-General of Bahamas, Miami, Florida

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Machiavelli: Prophet of the Modern Territorial State

Hudson Reynolds, Saint Leo University, hud.reynolds@gmail.com

Reconstructing Identity: Ayatollah Khomeini's Transformed Shiism

Jada Sinphay, B.A., University of South Florida-Tampa, jadas116@usf.edu

The Limits of Digital Ecosystem Dominance in National Security Intelligence Distribution

Yoan G. Hermida, A.B.D., University of South Florida, ygh@usf.edu

Political Theory Panel, Selby Auditorium

Chair: Brian Kupfer, Tallahassee State College, Brian.kupfer@tcc.fl.edu

Discussant: Ted Duggan, Tallahassee State College Edward.Duggan@tsc.fl.edu

Rousseau, Amour-Propre, and the Digital Architecture of Comparison

Antonio Garcia, Florida International University. agarc1133@fiu.edu

Consumerism Is the Perfection of Slavery: How the Constant Pursuit of Material Items Limit Personal Autonomy.

Kashish Kirpalani, Nova Southeastern University, kirpalanikashish@gmail.com

Linked Fate: How 'Black Excellence' Negatively Impacts Group Consciousness.

Ian Rowe, Florida Atlantic University. irowe2021@fau.edu

Solitary, Poor, Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Misconceptions around Hobbes and Their Consequences.

Joy Gilbertson, Eckerd College, jcgilbertson@eckerd.edu

Fractured Pluralism: A Milibandian Critique.

M. Zoe Fryer, Florida Gulf Coast University. mfryer@fgcu.edu

Re-Sounding the Bard: How do Musical Interpretations Alter Perceptions of Shakespeare's Dramatic Texts, Politics and History?"

Chantelle MacPhee, Saint Leo University, chantelle.macphee@saintleo.edu

ChulYoung Kim, Saint Leo University, chulyoung.kim@saintleo.edu

State and Local Government: *Challenges and Opportunities*, Kirk Hall,
Room 218

Chair and Discussant: Douglas Rivero, St. Petersburg College, rivero.douglas@spcollege.edu

Artificial Intelligence: Developing a National Strategic Framework in the Cayman Islands

Robert W. Robertson, University of London, rroberts905@gmail.com

Tamsin Deasey–Weinstein, Oxford University

Walkability and Civic Engagement: Can City Planners Brighten the Light of the Public Realm

Patrick Joaquin Villalonga, Florida International University, pjvillal@fiu.edu.

Understanding Multisector Stakeholder Perspectives on Barriers and Pathways to Housing Resilience in the City of Miami

Sidra Riaz, Florida International University, sriaz003@fiu.edu

Conflicting Rationales: The Role of Institutional Logics in Collaboration for Housing Resilience in Miami

Ananda Squire, Florida International University, asqui011@fiu.edu

State-Level Political Dominance and Food Insecurity in the United States: An Empirical Analysis

Rita Ray, Saint Leo University, rita.ray@saintleo.edu



**Please join us for the Post-Conference Reception
Lakeside Patio, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

A Special Thanks to our FPSA



Arrangements Chair
Dr. Austin Trantham
and **Saint Leo University**



Program Chair
Dr. Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Institutions and Organizations Participating in the 2026 FPSA Conference

4 continents, 8 countries, 7 states, 40 institutions

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Florida Political Science Association
2027 Annual Conference
March/April 2027
Florida Southern College



We are pleased to announce that the 2027 Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference will be held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

Special Thanks to
2027 Arrangements Chair Dr. Kelly McHugh.

Look for the Call for Papers in October 2026

Please check the FPSA website
for the latest information: fpsanet.com



FPSA Awards

- Manning J. Dauer Award
- Best Graduate Paper Award
- Best Undergraduate Paper Award

Manning J. Dauer Award

Manning J. Dauer was a distinguished professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Florida for over half a century. When he passed away in 1986, he left a legacy that is unparalleled in the State of Florida. He had served as both a formal and an informal advisor to scores of governors, the state legislature, mayors, county commissioners, and city councilpersons. Indeed, it is said that he left his imprint on many public policies at both the state and local level. He is perhaps best known for leading a team of scholars and public officials that devised a reapportionment scheme for the State in the aftermath of the famous *Baker v. Carr* and *Reynolds v. Sims* cases. As an academic, he wrote numerous articles and books on state and local government and politics, and his work was frequently cited by other scholars. He also edited a well-received book on government and politics in Florida. Professor Dauer was a well-known figure within and outside of academia including both the political science and public administration communities, local and state government, and the media. But, his heart and loyalty were perhaps tied closest to the organization that helped to co-found—the Florida Political Science Association (FPSA).

In the late 1990s, the FPSA decided that it was time to establish a lasting and fitting tribute to the person who had breathed life into our Association and devoted so much of his time and energy to the FPSA and the state he loved. To that end, the Association’s officers, Executive Council, and membership in 2000 created the Manning J. Dauer Award that would be given every three years to a faculty member at a Florida institution.

Recipients of the Manning Dauer Award should have a sustained exemplary record of research, teaching, mentoring and service related to Florida politics and policy and supportive involvement with the Florida Political Science Association. Like Manning Dauer himself, recipients of the award should be recognized experts on Sunshine State politics and have impact and recognition beyond the discipline of political science reaching out to their local community, the state, nation and/or internationally.

Manning J. Dauer Award Recipients

- 2025 Sean Foreman, Barry University
- 2021 Aubrey Jewett, University of Central Florida
- 2016 Jonathan West, University of Miami
- 2009 J. Edwin Benton, University of South Florida
- 2006 Joan Carver, Jacksonville University
- 2003 Susan A. MacManus, University of South Florida
- 2000 Thomas R. Dye, Florida State University



Best Graduate Paper Award

Best Undergraduate Paper Award

The FPSA recognizes the best graduate paper presented at the annual conference. The recipient of the award is recognized at the following conference with a plaque and a \$250 check from the association. In addition, the paper is considered for inclusion in the next volume of the association's journal, *The Florida Political Chronicle*.

This year FPSA has added an award to recognize the best undergraduate paper presented at the annual conference. The recipient of the award is also recognized at the following conference with a plaque and a \$200 check from the association. In addition, the paper is considered for inclusion in the next volume of the association's journal, *The Florida Political Chronicle*.

Graduate students who present a paper at the annual conference are encouraged to **submit their paper for the Best Graduate Paper Award by May 1, 2026**. Please email your paper as an attachment (MS Word or PDF) to the Chair of the Best Graduate Paper Award Selection Committee: **Sean Foreman**, sforeman@barry.edu

Undergraduate students who present a paper at the annual conference are encouraged to **submit their paper for the Best Undergraduate Paper Award by May 1, 2026**. Please email your paper as an attachment (MS Word or PDF) to the Chair of the Best Undergraduate Paper Award Selection Committee: **Austin Trantham**, Saint Leo University, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu



Publications of the Florida Political Science Association

Florida Political Chronicle

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The *Florida Political Chronicle* is an annual publication of the Florida Political Science Association and encourages submissions from all disciplinary subfields. Please contact **journal editor, Marco Rimanelli**, Marco.Rimanelli@saintleo.edu, for more information about submission guidelines.

The Political Scientist:

The Newsletter of the Florida Political Science Association

<https://www.fpsanet.com/the-political-scientist.html>

The Political Scientist is a semi-annual publication of the Florida Political Science Association. Please contact **editor, Austin Trantham**, austin.trantham@saintleo.edu for more information about submission guidelines.

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