Reproducing Hierarchies at the APSA Annual Meeting: Patterns of Panel Attendance by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity

In *PS: Political Science and Politics*

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Appendix A. Survey Questionnaire Text: "Patterns of Panel Attendance at Academic Conferences"

Text at the top of the survey: *You may be asked to fill out this survey multiple times. We thank you for your response each time.*

1. Role in this session
__ Paper author or presenter
__ Chair or discussant
__ Audience member

2. Current position
__ Graduate Student
__ Tenure Track or Tenured Professor
__ Non tenure-track, any rank
__ Other

3. Current institution
__ PhD granting institution
__ MA granting institution
__ Undergraduate-only institution
__ Other

4. Reasons for attending this session – please select <u>ALL</u> that apply
__ Interest in the panel's research section
__ Interest in a specific paper on the panel
__ Interest in networking with one or more of the panelists
__ Personal connection to one or more panelists
__ Have a role on the panel
__ Other:

5. Gender?
__ Man
__ Woman
__ Non-binary
__ Other:
__ Prefer not to state

6. Identify as ethnic or racial minority?
__ Yes
__ No
__ Prefer not to state

Appendix B. Data Collection and Methodology

Data collection for this study is associated with the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), 29-31 August 2019. All data collection procedures were coordinated with and carried out with the full knowledge of the American Political Science Association. Data collection was supported in part by a grant from the APSA Centennial Center for Political Science & Public Affairs.

First, Research Assistants (RAs) distributed the survey (see Appendix A) to all attendees and presenters at the 104 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday sessions associated with our four selected sections: Political Methodology, Political Psychology, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, and Women and Politics. Survey sheets were labelled to indicate the session where they were distributed, in order to merge with data from the program (discussed below).

RAs distributed the surveys prior to the start of each session included in the study. At the time when RAs collected completed surveys, they took a headcount of individuals in the room to inform estimates of response rates. RAs counted a total of 1804 individuals in these sessions and collected 1448 surveys, for an overall response rate of 81%. For individual sessions, response rates ranged from 25% to 100% (median = 0.821; standard deviation = 0.146). Of these 1447 respondents, 904 were attendees rather than presenters (based upon their responses to the first survey question regarding their role in the session).

Second, data on panelists (i.e., who attendees were there to see and hear) were drawn from the program for the 2019 APSA meeting, which listed the paper-authors, discussants, and chairs associated with each session in our dataset. These panelists' home institutions were coded according to the Basic Carnegie Classification, and we coded panelists' gender based upon naming conventions. The APSA provided us with the self-reported race and ethnicity of all panelists; we coded each panelist as white or non-white (to match the survey's question #6); and then deleted the fine-grained data.

Finally, individual-level data (survey data and presenter data from the program) were aggregated at the level of the session, in order to model variation across sessions.

Individual survey and panelist data are multilevel: nested within sessions, which are nested within sections. However, the second-level variable (section) has just four values, which is low for meaningful coefficients in a multilevel model. Thus, we estimated OLS models with standard errors clustered by session, instead.

Table B.1. Descriptive Statistics of Key Variables, Aggregated By Session

Variable	N (# of sessions)	Mean (Std. Dev.)	Min/Max
Response rate	104	0.810 (0.146)	0.25/1
Headcount	104	17.346 (9.912)	5/75
Number of respondents	104	13.923 (7.596)	2/57
Proportion of presenters - women *	104	0.528 (0.284)	0/1
Proportion of audience – women **	102†	0.486 (0.273)	0/1
Proportion of presenters – non-white *	104	0.322 (0.223)	0/1
Proportion of audience - non-white **	102†	0.257 (0.230)	0/1
Median institution type***	104	1.005 (0.049)	1/1.5
Proportion of audience respondents who indicated they attended to network	104	0.193 (0.211)	0/1
Proportion of audience respondents who indicated they attended due to interest in the section	104	0.816 (0.240)	0/1
Proportion of audience respondents who indicated they attended due to a personal connection with a panelist	104	0.234 (0.238)	0/1

Notes:
* Research Assistants coded names from the APSA 2019 program on the basis of conventionally feminine/masculine names (e.g., *Laura* is a conventionally feminine named, coded as a woman in our database).
** The APSA provided us with the self-reported race-ethnicity data for members who were panelists on the program in the sessions where we distributed the survey.
*** For panelists whose home institutions are based in the United States, we searched the Basic Carnegie Classification database (available online at: https://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/lookup/lookup.php). In this classification, 1=doctoral universities (which we call Ph.D.-granting on the survey), 2=master's colleges and universities (M.A.-granting), 3=baccalaureate colleges (undergraduate-only), 4=other (e.g., associate's colleges, special-focus). For the small number of non-U.S.-institutions, we imputed these classifications.
† The number of cases for these variables is lower than the total number of sessions in the dataset (104), because for two sessions none of the survey respondents was an attendee (i.e., all respondents for these two sessions were *presenters*).

Appendix C. Ethics Statement and Data Availability and Replication Statement

Ethics

Survey of panel attendees: Our protocol for distributing the paper survey at four sections of the 2019 APSA annual meeting was reviewed and approved as exempt from further review by the Institutional Review Board at Bucknell University, Protocol #1920-013.

The need to quickly distribute and collect the paper survey at the start of each session meant that signed informed consent forms were not collected from each respondent. Instead, a statement indicating that surveys would be distributed at all sessions hosted by the four research sections was included in two APSA pre-conference bulletins, one sent to members in July 2019 and the second in August 2019 (see Box C.1 for text of this statement). Additionally, research assistants posted laminated signs with this statement at the doors of each session. (Box C. 2 reproduces the text of this statement.)

The research assistants who distributed the surveys received training by the PIs, which included a focus on ethics and instructions not to pressure individuals to complete the survey. Attendees who declined to participate simply left the surveys unfilled. Research assistants immediately turned the paper surveys over to the principal investigators at the conclusion of each session. Given that completing the survey entailed a very brief interaction, participants were not compensated for their participation in the study.

All research assistants as well as the principal investigators had active CITI or NIH training certificates at the time of the study.

Box C.1. Text of statement included in pre-conference bulletins sent by APSA

Notice of a study of patterns in panel attendance at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. (Aug. 29 – 31, 2019)

At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. (Aug. 29 – 31, 2019), you may be invited to participate in a study of patterns in panel attendance entitled, "Patterns of Panel Attendance at Academic Conferences." At the entrance to a selection of panels at our annual meeting, RAs will offer you a short survey to respond to, and they will take a head count of panel attendees.

You are free to opt out of the study by declining to take and/or fill out a survey. Deciding not to take part, or to stop being a part, of this research will result in no penalty, fine or loss of benefits that you otherwise have a right to.

What to expect?
Participation in this study consists of responding to a short survey. This survey requests no identifying information.

Risk and benefits
Participation in this study poses no more than minimal risk. You will not benefit directly from participation, though the study may generate new knowledge that may benefit the professional community of which you are a member. There is no compensation for participating.

Confidentiality and "the right to be forgotten" (European Union General Data Protection Regulation):
No identifying personal information will be part of the dataset that we analyze. The information collected will be kept confidential as much as is permitted by law. Because the data we are collecting are not personally identified, it is not possible for us to remove your survey responses from the dataset.

[Paragraph with PIs contact information appeared here]

Box C.2. Text of laminated signs posted at the doors of each session where research assistants distributed the surveys

As an attendee or presenter at the event scheduled in this room, you are being invited to participate in a study of patterns in panel attendance entitled "Patterns of Panel Attendance at Academic Conferences." RAs will offer you a short survey to respond to, and they will take a head count of panel attendees.

Deciding not to take part, or to stop being a part, of this research will result in no penalty, fine or loss of benefits that you otherwise have a right to.

[Paragraph with PIs contact information appeared here.]

Data on panelists: Panelists' name, university, and role in the session are publicly available information, taken from the 2019 APSA program, which remains online at https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/apsa/apsa19/. After entering panelists' name, university, and roles into a spreadsheet, we added measures of panelists' gender and race/ethnicity as described in Appendix B. The latter were data shared with us by APSA under conditions of confidentiality. Since we relied on publicly available data as well as APSA data to construct this dataset, we did not seek informed consent from panelists.

Data Replication and Availability

The authors have uploaded datasets and Stata code to the Harvard Dataverse (Piscopo et al 2022). These materials allow for replication of the session-level results of our analyses, with the exception of panelists' race-ethnicity (explained below). We also have uploaded materials to replicate our individual-analysis of panelists for certain variables.

We cannot provide the individual-level data for our survey attendees, per the terms of our approved Institutional Review Board protocol, due to concerns from the institutional review board that surveys – in asking for respondents' gender, race/ethnicity, rank, and institution type – could potentially identify respondents. Our session level dataset instead includes the aggregate proportions of audience members for these variables, as calculated from the individual-level responses.

Turning to data on the panelists, our publicly-available dataset has replaced panelists' names with numbers and removed panelists' institutions. While the 2019 APSA programs exists online and who presented is not private information, panelists did not know in advance that presenting at the meeting could place them in a dataset. Replacing panelist names with numbers and removing their institutions respects persons in acknowledging that making one's name public in one fashion (in a conference program) does not always mean comfort with having it public in another (appearing in a dataset). We leave the code marking the institution's Carnegie classification.

Finally, we cannot provide the individual-level data for the 2019 panelists by race/ethnicity, which means we also cannot provide this variable at the aggregate level. The race-ethnicity data comes from each individual's APSA member profile and was provided by APSA under the condition that this information would not be shared.

Works Cited

Piscopo, Jennifer M, Christina Xydias, Amy L. Atchison, and Malliga Och. 2022. "Replication Data for: Reproducing Hierarchies at the APSA Annual Meeting: Patterns of Panel Attendance by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity." Harvard Dataverse. doi:10.7910/DVN/8AMHQW.