

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

TODAY

THE MEMBER NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

**FIFTY YEARS OF LGBTQ+ SCHOLARSHIP**

**LEADERS IN THE GAY ACTIVIST MOVEMENT**  
(Sherrill, 1973)

**The Political Power of Lesbians, Gays, and...**  
Kenneth Sherrill, Hunter College, CUNY<sup>1</sup>

In the United States, as in most of the world, lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals<sup>2</sup> are outnumbered and despised. Unlike most other potentially political groups, gay people are further disempowered by virtue of being born as if into a diaspora—probably randomly distributed about the population at birth. Their quest for political power is disadvantaged by barriers to the formation of political community as well as by lack of access to significant power resources. The relative political powerlessness of gay people stands in a contradiction to their depiction by advocates of “traditional values” as a powerful movement advancing a “gay agenda” in American politics. Similarly, the attention paid to the occasional electoral victories of openly lesbian and gay candidates distorts the reality that fewer than

are well-off with regard to access to other resources.<sup>3</sup> Pluralistic thrives on a system of inequalities with regard to power resources. Pluralism is threatened when groups are faced with that may not be overburdens of cumulative and that, as a consequence, national majoritarianism—particularly as the electoral system—likely to deprive lgb rights than to protect The data below provides explanations of the recurring position of gay American politics.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF LGBTQ+ SCHOLARSHIP

MARK WARREN PRESIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHY

2023 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

2023 ORGANIZED SECTION AWARDS

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THE MEMBER NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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Since 1903, APSA has been the leading professional organization for the study of political science. Today, the association serves more than 10,000 members in 100 countries around the world. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry to deepen our collective understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship around the world. For more information, visit [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org).

## ON THE COVER

On the cover: Digital art by Madelyn Dewey. Pictured: Kenneth Sherrill, author of the first empirical LGBTQ+ politics paper to be presented at an APSA Annual Meeting. Sherrill presented "Leaders in the Gay Activist Movement: The Problem of Finding the Followers" in 1973.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SPOTLIGHTS

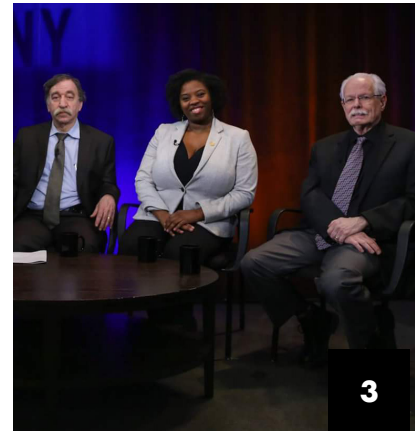
- 3** CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF LGBTQ+ SCHOLARSHIP: KENNETH SHERRILL, AN LGBTQ+ LEADER WHO HAS NO TROUBLE FINDING FOLLOWERS  
Queer J. Thomas
- 4** MEMBER AWARD AND CAREER UPDATES
- 5** 2023 TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS AND TRACK SUMMARIES
- 16** PLACEMENT IN THE PROFESSION
- 17** MEET THE STAFF
- 18** MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE D. DEARDORFF
- 19** BOOKS BY OUR MEMBERS
- 20** THE ECONOMIC LEGACIES OF REPRESSION  
Angie Torres-Beltran
- 21** SINGULAR VS. PLURAL: HOW WARS SHAPE IMAGINED SOVEREIGNTY  
Karra McCray
- 22** IN MEMORIAM: MINTON GOLDMAN  
William F.S. Miles
- 22** IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM D. (WOODY) KAY  
Christopher Bosso
- 22** IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT CHARLES SMITH  
San Francisco State University Department of Political Science
- 23** IN MEMORIAM: RAYMOND TATALOVICH  
Submitted by Patricia A. Kolb

## PRESIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHY

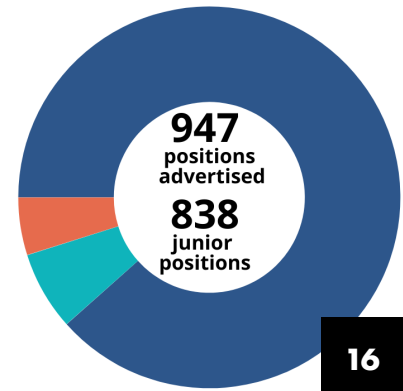
- 24** MARK WARREN: BETWEEN REALISM AND ASPIRATION—DEMOCRACY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
Jane Mansbridge

## ASSOCIATION

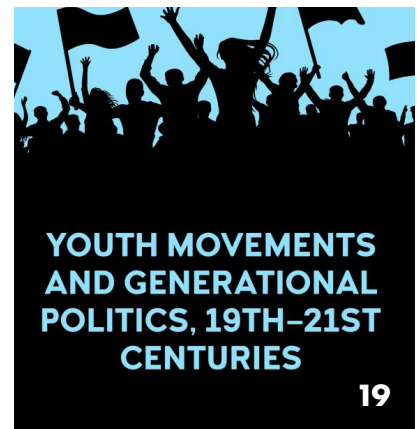
- 31** ADVOCACY CORNER  
Ben Goodrich
- 32** COUNCIL NOMINEE SLATE
- 35** INCOMING *PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS* EDITORIAL TEAM, 2023-2026
- 36** MEET THE 2023-2024 DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM SPRING FELLOWS  
India Simmons



3

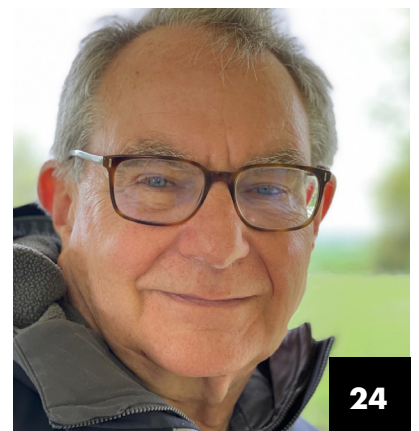


16



**YOUTH MOVEMENTS  
AND GENERATIONAL  
POLITICS, 19TH-21ST  
CENTURIES**

19



24

## ASSOCIATION

### 39 MEET THE 2023 RALPH BUNCHE SUMMER INSTITUTE SCHOLARS

India Simmons

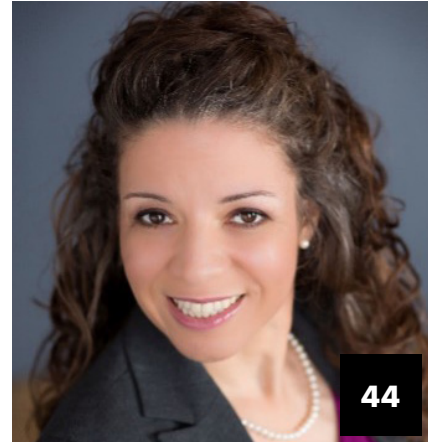
### 42 MEET THE 2023 ICER FELLOWS

Sean Delehanty

### 45 MINUTES OF THE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND DECEMBER 2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS

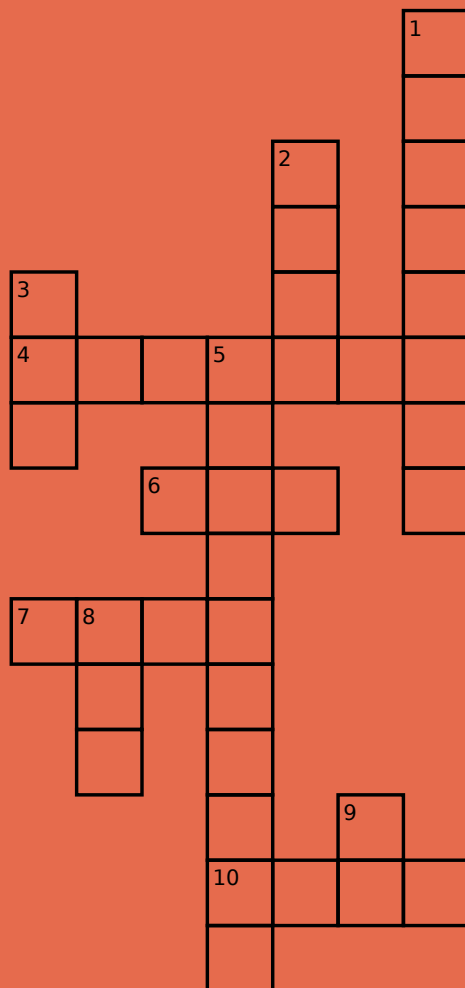
### 51 APSA RENAMES APSA BEST BOOK AWARD FOR MERZE TATE AND ELINOR OSTROM

### 52 2023 ORGANIZED SECTION AWARDS



44

## APSA CROSSWORD



### Down

1. Last name of the President of the United States whose son served as APSA's president in 1921

2. Abbreviation for department at APSA which works to support early career scholars across the Arab Middle East and North Africa (APSA \_\_\_\_\_ Workshops)

3. Abbreviation for department at APSA which works to foster equality across the political science discipline

5. The center which offers grant opportunities and programs focused on civic engagement (\_\_\_\_\_ Center)

8. Abbreviation for one of APSA's flagship journals known as political science's premier scholarly research journal

9. Abbreviation for APSA's flagship journal known as the "journal of record for the discipline of political science"

### Across

4. APSA's Teaching and Learning library of resources for political science (APSA \_\_\_\_\_)

6. Length of APSA's presidential terms in years

7. Abbreviation for APSA's flagship journal known for publishing scholarship on teaching issues

10. Abbreviation for APSA's flagship journal known for its mission of creating a space for discussion (both within the discipline and beyond to more general public audiences)

See page 64 for answer key!