

CenterPAGE

A Look at the Centennial Center for
Political Science & Public Affairs

Center Space Available for Fall and Winter 2007!

The Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs is an invaluable resource to political and social scientists. Since its opening in September 2003, the Center has housed more than 80 scholars. The Center, housed in the APSA headquarters near Dupont Circle, provides a great base of operations for scholars researching in the D.C. metro area. The Center offers Visiting Scholars furnished work space, telephone, fax, computers, Internet access, conference space, a reference library, and access to George Washington University's Gelman Library.

Visiting Scholar stays range from a few days to 12 months. Space is limited to APSA members and is available for faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, and advanced graduate students from the U.S. and abroad. Scholars are expected to cover their own expenses and a modest facilities fee for the use of the Center.

Prospective visiting scholars may apply at any time. Positions are awarded on a space-available basis. Full details on the Center and the Visiting Scholars Program, including application form, is online at www.apsanet.org/section_224.cfm. You may also contact the APSA office at: 202-483-2512; center@apsanet.org.



Thomas E. Flores

InProfile

Thomas E. Flores is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Michigan and is currently working on his dissertation, entitled *The Market and the State: The Politics of Property Rights and Economic Exclusion*. This research examines how the design of political institutions underlies cross-national differences in the protection of legal rights to property.

A gathering consensus in the economics and policy communities maintains that the legal protection of private property is the most important institutional guarantor of long-term economic growth. Thomas' dissertation extends this logic by building a political institutional account of the legal protection of property. He argues that in disputes over legal rights, economic actors, focused on private gains, will lobby politicians for rules that systematically favor their property rights while excluding others'. Cross-national

variation in the efficiency and inclusiveness of property rights rules is thus the product of the interaction of political leaders and private economic actors, which is in turn the product of political institutions. Thomas adapts extant political theory, particularly the selectorate theory of Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and his co-authors, to argue regimes that allow broad participation but rely on a small "winning coalition" to actually choose political leaders are likely to engage in more serious economic exclusion.

Thomas uses a two-pronged empirical strategy to evaluate this theoretical account. First, he employs statistical methods to analyze the effects of political institutions on the inclusiveness and quality of property rights protection. Second, Thomas' field research, conducted in 2006 in Bogotá, Colombia, illustrates how political efforts to recognize and protect the land of poor farmers was defeated by rich landowners organizing through political institutions that favored their interests.

As a visiting scholar at the Centennial Center, Thomas is writing and revising three chapters of his dissertation. He also is engaged in collaborative research with Irfan Nooruddin of The Ohio State University on the political economy of economic recovery from devastating civil conflicts. Their most recent paper examines the role of the World Bank in this process. As part of this research, he has met with staff members of the Bank and presented their research at the United States Institute of Peace.

Research Funding Available

The APSA sponsors a number of funds to help finance research. Many of these funds can support your stay at the Centennial Center or elsewhere.

Rita Mae Kelly Fund

Supports research on the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, and political power.

Warren E. Miller Fellowship in Electoral Politics

This fund provides supplemental support for research residencies in national and comparative electoral politics at the Centennial Center.

The Presidency Research Fund

This fund provides supplemental support for examination of the presidency for both resident and non-resident scholars.

Special Fund for the Study of Women and Politics

Provides supplemental support for the study of women and politics.

Ed Artinian Endowment for Advancing Publishing

Provides supplemental support to assist young scholars in publishing their research.

Fund for Latino Scholarship

This fund provides support to individuals or programs that promote the recruitment, retention, and promotion of Latino and Latina political scientists.

To see all available funding opportunities offered by APSA, visit www.apsanet.org/content_3471.cfm