

Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on Domestic Human Rights Practices”

Section 37: Qualitative Methods

Alexander L. George Article Award

This award honors Alexander George's prominent role in developing and teaching qualitative methodology, in particular the comparative case study method.

Award Committee: Bear Braumoeller, Chair, Ohio State University; Cynthia Kaplan, University of California at Santa Barbara; and George Thomas, Claremont McKenna

Co-Recipients: **Giovanni Capoccia**, Oxford University; **R. Daniel Kelemen**, Rutgers University

Title: “Consequences of Positivism: A Pragmatic Assessment”

Co-Recipient: **Henry E. Hale**, Indiana University

Title: “The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism” (*World Politics*)

Giovanni Sartori Book Award

This award honors Giovanni Sartori's innovative research on social science concepts and his leading role in developing the field of concept analysis as a component of political science methodology.

Award Committee: Kristen Renwick Monroe, chair, University of California at Irvine; Amel Ahmed, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; and Fred Chernoff, Colgate University

Recipient: **Michael Tomz**, Stanford University

Title: *Reputation and International Cooperation: Sovereign Debt across Three Centuries* (Princeton University Press, 2007)

The Sage Paper Award

This award honors the contribution of Sara and George McCune to the field of qualitative methods, through their role in founding Sage Publications and developing it into a leading publisher in the field of social science methodology.

Award Committee: Fred Schaffer, chair, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Michael Coppedge, University of Notre

Dame; and Sarah Lischer, Wake Forest University

Recipient: **Dan Slater**, University of Chicago; Erica Simmons, University of Chicago

Title: “Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents in Comparative-Historical Analysis”

2008 Related Group Awards

In addition to awards conferred at the Association's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 28, the following recognitions are being made at the business meetings and receptions of APSA's Related Groups.

Labor Project Best Paper Award

Award Committee: Melissa Mason; Yale University, William Mello; Indiana University, Dorian Warren, Columbia University

Recipient: **Tim Pachirat**, New School for Social Research

Title: “A Geography of Violence: Dividing Labor and Space on the Kill Floor of an Industrialized Slaughterhouse”

New Report Examines “Persistent Problem” of Global Inequality

Global levels of inequality today are at extremely high levels even as conditions for alleviating deprivation are more favorable than ever before. Inequities in the international system and within developing countries threaten to halt progress toward greater democratization and economic development for the poorest countries in the world.

So concludes a new report, entitled *The Persistent Problem: Inequality, Difference, and the Challenge of Development*, issued by the Task Force on Difference, Inequality, and Developing Societies of the American Political Science Association. The report highlights how these problems threaten efforts to alleviate human deprivation such as the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals and how economic inequality and social difference pose relentless challenges. The report and associated reference materials are available online at www.apsanet.org/~globalinequality/.

The persistent problem of inequality is

that it enables dominant actors to create institutions and policies that favor their interests even when they are not in the best interests of society as a whole. At the international level, this has resulted in a pattern of globalization that limits the potential benefits of international markets to the poorest countries. At the domestic level in poor countries, inequality has enabled elites to perpetuate inefficient institutions at a time when globalization gives a premium for efficient ones.

According to task force chair John Echeverri-Gent (University of Virginia), “The report shows why we should care about economic inequality even in a world where growth has brought unprecedented affluence. Inequality means that international markets provides fewer benefits to poor countries, and within developing countries, it limits the quality of democracy and the number of people who can take advantage of the opportunities offered by economic development.”

The consequences of economic inequality and political marginalization based on social differences will become more urgent as rapidly improving communications and technologies increase people's awareness of it. Democracy and capitalism do offer the promise of alleviating the problems of inequality, but they flourish best only if the peoples of developing societies can develop economic and political institutions that reflect their own histories and cultures.

In wealthy countries, policymakers and citizens must learn more about the distinctive conditions in each developing country as their ability to help remedy inequalities depends on listening to and engaging with social and political goals formulated by actors within the developing world. Effective change will be interactive, not imposed. The report concludes that there are no universal policy prescriptions to this complex challenge.