Luis Fraga to receive 2017 MPSA Latino/a Caucus Distinguished Career Award

Luis Ricardo Fraga’s impact on the study of Latino Politics is difficult to measure. However, after 32 years of research and service in Latino and Racial and Ethnic Politics, Dr. Fraga will receive the 2017 MPSA Latino/a Caucus Distinguished Career Award. From his beginnings in Corpus Christi, Texas, Fraga has been at the forefront of Latino Politics for over three decades. The MPSA Latino Caucus unanimously agreed on this year’s recipient and is excited to recognize Dr. Fraga’s contributions to the discipline this coming April. Fraga received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University (cum laude) and a Ph.D. from Rice University in 1984. His dissertation at Rice explored nonpartisan slating groups in Texas and how they disadvantaged working classes and people of color in city elections. Since then, he has published six manuscripts with other leaders in the discipline like John Garcia, Rodney Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, and Gary Segura. His research has come full circle as his next co-authored manuscript

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Partners or Rivals? Receives APSA REP Book Award

By Ivy Cargile

Betina Cutaia Wilkinson recently won the APSA REP Section’s Best Book Award on Inter-Race Relations in the United States. This book joins the very small cadre of scholarship that takes an analytical view of the inter-racial relationship between three key constituencies in U.S. politics – that of Blacks, Latinos, & Whites in Louisiana. While most scholarship focusing on Latinos has analyzed them within the context of east or west coast politics, Wilkinson’s work discusses them within the South. In doing so she attempts to explain, and justify a novel theory, which she labels the Triangular Theory of Contact, Context, and Identification (or TTCCI for short). Wilkinson conceptualizes what members of one group think about another group by examining perceptions of closeness, commonality, and competition. The reader becomes engaged in a conversation about the current influence of Social Contact Theory as well as the Theory of Racial Threat. One begins to understand that it is possible that because of both contact and threat, a level of competitiveness arises among members of different groups. However, as Wilkinson nicely explains, contact and competitiveness are not mutually exclusive. She argues that until both parties are able to pass comprehensive immigration reform and laws that boost both the economic and political power of all in the U.S. the reality is that competition between blacks and Latinos is more likely.

2017 MPSA Latino Caucus: Author Meets Critics and Roundtables

From Inclusion to Influence: Latino Representation in Congress and Latino Political Incorporation in America by Walter Wilson
Rene Rocha (Chair)
Walter C. Wilson, Eric J. Juenke, Emily Farris

Latinas in American Politics: Changing and Embracing Political Tradition
Eds: Sharon A. Navarro, Samantha L. Hernandez, Leslie A. Navarro
Aileen Cardona-Arroyo (Chair)
Sharon Ann Navarro, Nicole Kalaf-Hughes, Christina Bejarano, Samantha L Hernandez

Roundtable: MPSA Latino/a Caucus Distinguished Career Award
Bernard Fraga (Chair)
Luis Fraga, Gary Segura, Ricardo Ramirez, Marcela Garcia-Castanon
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The Changing Urban Regime: Toward an Informed Public Interest, a history of the political incorporation of Tejanos in San Antonio city politics from 1836-2009 is in preparation for publication. His articles are too numerous to repeat here, but he has written over twenty articles on topics like Latino access to catholic schools, ethnic advocacy on California school boards, electoral success and legislative advocacy among Latina, and Latino state officials, and Latino politics research and the development of American political science. Fraga was one of six principal investigators on the 2006 Latino National Survey (LNS). This survey was the first-ever nineteen state-stratified survey of Latinos in the U.S. The 2006 LNS was the first large-scale survey asking Latinos questions regarding political attitudes, behavior, and beliefs. Fraga has received multiple teaching awards including the Rhodes Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (1993), the Faculty Award from the Chicano/ Latino Graduating Class (1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001), the Undergraduate Faculty Advisor of the Year Award (2001), and the Associated Students of Stanford University Teaching Award (2003). Valerie Martinez-Ebers notes the large number of what she calls “Fraga Fans” as a testament to Luis Fraga’s excellent mentorship. “Every place we go there is always a student who wants to see him. He always had a student who wanted to visit or take him to dinner to thank him for his mentorship and help.”

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What’s New: 
News from Around Latino Politics

- Efrén O. Pérez’ has a new book, *Unspoken Politics: Implicit Attitudes and Political Thinking*, currently available on Cambridge University Press. He was also promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science in January 2016. Lastly, he has received “Springer’s Change the World, One Article at a Time: Must-Read Articles from 2015 - 2016” award for his article, “Ricochet: How Elite Discourse Politicizes Racial and Ethnic Identities” published in *Political Behavior*

- Ivy Cargile has accepted a tenure track position at CSU Bakersfield

- Ali Valenzuela and Melissa R. Michelson just published an article in the *APSR* entitled “Turnout, Status, and Identity: Mobilizing Latinos to Vote with Group Appeals”

- D. Xavier Medina Vidal was appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights as a member of its Arkansas Advisory Committee

- Angela X. Ocampo has a forthcoming co-authored piece in *Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica* on the 2016 election and the Latino vote. She also has an R&R on her first ever solo-authored paper. Lastly, she was selected to be part of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, which recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate

- Adrian Pantoja gave a lecture at St. John’s University for their Global Awareness Lectures entitled: *Latino Politics In The Era Of Bad Feelings*

- Contested Transformation: *Race, Gender, and Political Leadership in 21st Century America* by Carol Hardy-Fanta, Pei-Te Lien, Dianne Pinderhughes, and Christine Marie Sierra, was published in October 2016 and is available on Cambridge University Press

- Angel Molina began a new position as postdoctoral research fellow in the Center for Organization Research and Design in the ASU School of Public Affairs and recently accepted a tenure track appointment at the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University. Angel also co-authored three publications in *Politics, Groups, and Identities, Urban Affairs Review, and The American Review of Public Administration.*

- Danielle Lemi (UCR) was awarded the APSA Latino Scholarship Fund Summer 2016 to support her research on Latino candidate phenotype and candidate evaluations


- Eric Gonzalez Juenke and Paru Shah have a new post on the Politics of Color blog entitled “Re-thinking Minority Representation in the United States”
Moreover, the Luis R. Fraga Fellowship in Institutional Transformation was established in his honor at the Haas Center for Public Service upon his departure from Stanford University. In 2010, he received an award from the Graduate School of the University of Washington for exemplary advocacy and leadership on behalf of graduate education. Marcela Garcia-Castanon, Assistant Professor at CSUSF and Fraga dissertation advisee agrees. “Luis Fraga’s mentorship and support was unwavering, challenging me to demand more of my work and myself. His guidance proved invaluable, mixed with humor and graciousness that have come to define good mentorship for me. He helped me become a better scholar, colleague and mentor myself.”

In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed him to the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics as co-chair of the Postsecondary Education Subcommittee. The Commission developed an action plan and priorities for President Obama and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan to improve the educational attainment of Hispanics. Fraga was named one of the top “100 Influentials” in the U.S in 2011 by Hispanic Business and two years later, was appointed to the Immigrant Voting Rights Task by Seattle Mayor Michael McGinn. Fraga is currently the Co-Director of the Institute for Latino Studies, the Arthur Foundation Endowed Professor of Transformative Latino Leadership, the Joseph and Elizabeth Robbie Professor of Political Science and a Fellow for the Institute for Educational Initiatives. For all of these reasons and many more, the MPSA Latino Caucus recognizes and commends Dr. Luis Fraga and his dedication to the discipline of Latino politics with this award.

Felicidades Luis!
We Want To Hear From You!

The MPSA Latino Caucus is looking to connect with its members to share interesting news about recent publications, surveys, experiments, and projects for our next newsletter.

Visit our website:
http://mpsalatinocaucus.weebly.com

Email us:
mpsalatinocaucus@gmail.com

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JOIN US IN CHICAGO AT MPSA 2017!

MPSA Latino Caucus Mission Statement

The MPSA Latino/a Caucus promotes professional equity for Latinos/as in the discipline of political science by sponsoring sessions at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (hereafter, MPSA), working with the MPSA to promote the interests of Latino/a political scientists, encouraging research that acknowledges and investigates the presence and activities of Latino/a in political life, and serving as a network for members between annual meetings.

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