Fourth Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshops: Call for Papers

The Fourth Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshops will be held June 14-18, 2011 at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Approximately 150-200 political networks scholars from around the world are expected to be in attendance.

The study of political networks serves a key role in understanding governance, as politics is largely driven by relationships between actors, agencies, and institutions. A greater recognition of these relationships has begun to change the study of politics. We are soliciting papers that apply network ideas, from substantive insights to methodological innovations, to topics related to American politics, international relations, comparative politics, political theory, public administration, political methodology, or other areas of politics. We are particularly interested in proposals that are not only descriptive, but that also make causal claims with clear identification strategies. Submissions are encouraged from a wide range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields including, but not limited to, political science, sociology, economics, public policy, anthropology, psychology, business, information systems, mathematics, physics, and complex systems.

The full conference will kick off on June 16 with an opening reception and keynote address by Garry Robins, University of Melbourne. A full schedule of panel presentations begins on June 17 and 18. Mark Newman of the University of Michigan will give the plenary address on June 17.

Due to the success of the workshop sessions held in prior years at Harvard and Duke, workshop offerings at this year’s event have been expanded. The first three days will be devoted to didactic sessions on network methodology by leading experts in the field, including Garry Robins, Steve Borgatti, Mark Newman, Carter Butts, David Siegel, Meredith Rolfe, and Michael Heaney.

Sessions are scheduled as follows:

- June 14: Beginning Workshop on Network Analysis (assumes no prior training)
- June 15: Computer Applications in Network Analysis
- June 16: Specialized Workshops in Network Analysis and Keynote Address (5pm)
- June 17: Conference Panels, Plenary Address, and Poster Session
- June 18: Conference Panels, Plenary Panel, and Business Meeting

Key Deadlines:

- March 15: Deadline for proposals
- April 1: Invitations to conference announced
- April 15: Deadline to confirm or decline invitations
- May 1: Deadline for early registration

NSF-funded fellowships are available to support graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty to attend the conference and workshops. Scholars and students from outside the U.S. are also eligible to apply. The fellowship amount will be pro-rated to cover the number of workshop days. Conference attendance is required for all fellowship recipients.

To submit a proposal, register, apply for funding, find accommodations, or obtain other information, please visit http://sitemaker.umich.edu/fordschool-pnc

Additionally, the 4th Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshops will be held immediately prior to the beginning of the ICPSR Summer Program at the University of Michigan. There are two ICPSR opportunities that may be of interest to conference participants. First, ICPSR is offering a one-week workshop (June 20-24) on “Advanced Network Analysis,” which will provide an overview of how to handle and analyze very large-scale network data, such as Federal Elections Commission and Twitter data. Fellowships of up to $1,000 will be available to political networks conference attendees, who wish
to attend this seminar as well. Second, ICPSR is offering additional short workshops on “Network Analysis: An Introduction (June 13-17), “Social Network Analysis: An Introduction (July 18-22 in Chapel Hill, NC), and “Network Analysis: A Second Course” (August 17-19). Third, ICPSR is offering a four-week course (June 20-July 15) on “Network Analysis.” More information on all of these workshops, including course descriptions and syllabi from past sessions, is available on the ICPSR Summer Program website, at http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/sumprog/

Plan to come to the 4th Annual Political Networks Conference and Workshops, June 14-18, 2011, and stay in Ann Arbor for a summer of training in networks through the ICPSR Summer Program!

Program Co-Chairs

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