



Carleton
University

Department of
Political Science



**POLITICAL SCIENCE
GRADUATE STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**
Carleton University

4TH ANNUAL POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS' GRADUATE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
APRIL 20TH, 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS

BETWEEN FRAGMENTATION AND HOPE: POLITICS AND ANTI-POLITICS IN THE 2020s

Extended Deadline for Abstracts: March 14th, 2022

The Political Science Graduate Students' Association (PSGSA) at Carleton University, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, invites graduate students (MAs and PhDs) to submit abstract proposals of no more than 250 words for the 4th Annual PSGSA Conference: *Between Fragmentation and Hope: Politics and Anti-Politics in the 2020s*.

The ascendance of Donald Trump to the Presidency of the United States marked a turning point in history when the politics of "anti-politics" - or the rejection of traditional, elite-led politics and processes - became firmly established not only as a powerful mobilizing force, but a fundamental part of the political mainstream. In the years since, the political landscape has changed, ushering in an array of new spaces, practices, discourses and actors that diverge significantly from previous conceptions of order, authority, and statescraft. In the case of the latter, while many of these actors have emerged from the far-right of the political spectrum to attack seemingly settled scientific truths over social media, challenge COVID-19 restrictions, and launch sometimes violent protests on streets from Charlottesville to Athens, the right is not the only source of anti-political fervor. Efforts like the horizontally organized Black Lives Matter Movement, coordinated social media campaigns challenging police abuse in Nigeria, and the "School Strike for Climate" campaign led by Greta Thunberg suggest that citizens of all political persuasions are reaching for unorthodox and extra-systemic forms of political activity. For some, this form of political organizing represents a challenge to democratic politics while others interpret this rejection of traditional, elite-led, political mobilization as a call for a new form of politics that makes space for disillusioned and frustrated citizens in modern politics.

As the horizon of the political expands to include the anti-political, the decade ahead seems destined to be defined by a struggle between order and chaos; continuity and rupture; hope and fragmentation. In what ways has the mainstreaming of anti-politics and the popular rejection of authority dislodged our established narratives of stability? Are we bound to fall trap to political fragmentation, or can a new political order be born from the praxis ahead? And what does this mean for politics in the 2020s?



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The PSGSA welcomes submissions that respond to these questions from a range of perspectives and fields, including International Relations, Comparative Politics, Critical Race and Gender Studies, Political Theory, and Canadian Politics. Potential topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Ideological fragmentation, and the anti-politics of the (alt)right
- New Anarchism(s) and the changing landscape of activism
- Political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic
- Borders, belonging, and issues of migration
- Emerging challenges in global affairs and international relations
- Technology, conspiracy and (anti)politics
- Changes in economic expansion, globalization, and capitalist development
- Feminism, intersectionality, indigeneity, and institutional change
- Theoretical engagements with the concepts of truth, progress, fragmentation, nature, or technology

The PSGSA greatly encourages the participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds and locations across the globe who are underrepresented in Political Science. To facilitate, this conference will be presented in a hybrid format, which will combine in-person panels at Carleton University in Ottawa, ON integrated with participation and attendance over Zoom. This, of course, will be subject to provincial health guidelines and university regulations related to the pandemic – should restrictions not permit an in-person component at the time of the conference, panels will be held over Zoom.

As a graduate student conference, we strive to provide opportunities to graduate students to share their research, develop their presentation skills, and network with their peers. Presented papers will also receive feedback from participating faculty from Carleton University's Department of Political Science.

The PSGSA will offer a prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper for the best paper submitted by a graduate student. Applicants must submit their paper to their discussant by April 8, 2022 to qualify for the award.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submissions should be for individual paper presentations which will be organized into panels. Please send a title and abstract, of up to 250 words, to pscarleton@gmail.com by March 7, 2022 with "Between Fragmentation and Hope" in the subject line. Papers are due to discussants by April 8, 2022. All submissions should include the full name of the presenter as well as their departmental and institutional affiliation. We look forward to your submissions!