2018 QMMR Section Awards

Giovanni Sartori QMMR Book Award

This award recognizes the best book, published in the calendar prior to the year in which the award is presented, which makes an original contribution to qualitative or multi-method methodology per se, synthesizes or integrates methodological ideas in a way that is itself a methodological contribution, or provides an exemplary application of qualitative methods to a substantive issue. The selection committee consisted of Anna Grzymala-Busse (Stanford University), chair; Nicholas Weller (University of California, Riverside); and Zachariah Mampilly (Vassar College).

Winner of the 2018 Award: Alisha Holland. *Forbearance as Redistribution: The Politics of Informal Welfare*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Prize citation: *Forbearance as Redistribution* is a theoretically innovative, carefully argued, and meticulously documented book. Alisha Holland focuses on why states have laws that they choose not to enforce. She argues that the reason is not a lack of state capacity, but rather the decision not to enforce a law, and that this forbearance is a form of economic redistribution. Holland combines theoretically innovative arguments about the ways in which politicians deliberately choose to forego enforcing laws in order to gain votes, with a clear and skillful use of diverse kinds of evidence. She draws on a host of data including surveys, process tracing and interviews, content analysis, and experimental methods. Holland's treatment of this evidence is transparent and compelling: her case selection and research designs are clear and she documents her sources and how they were used. This is an excellent use of mixed methods, and an important contribution to the literatures on clientelism and policy discretion, electoral strategies, and economic development.

Alexander George Article/Chapter Award

This award recognizes the journal article or book chapter, published in the calendar year prior to the year in which the award is presented, which—on its own—makes the greatest methodological contribution to qualitative research and/or provides the most exemplary application of qualitative research methods. The selection committee consisted of Nahomi Ichino (University of Michigan), chair; Seva Gunitsky (University of Toronto); and Carsten Schneider (Central European University).

Winner of the 2018 Award: Calla Hummel. "Disobedient Markets: Street Vendors, Enforcement, and State Intervention in Collective Action," *Comparative Political Studies* 2017, Vol. 50(11) 1524-1555. DOI: 10.1177/0010414016679177

Prize citation: The committee is very pleased to award the 2018 Alexander George Award for the best journal article (or chapter in an edited volume that stands on its own as an article) developing and/or applying qualitative methods that was published in 2017 to Calla Hummel, for her work "Disobedient Markets: Street Vendors, Enforcement, and State Intervention in Collective Action," published in *Comparative Political Studies*. This is an exemplary piece of research using mixed methods to advance new ideas about and empirical knowledge of a significant social phenomenon. Hummel starts with an important observation and question—informal workers make up half the global workforce, and contrary to what we might assume, given the challenges of collective action for people with limited resources, they are organized in many parts of the world. Hummel asks why is this the case. Why do informal workers organize in some places and not others? She formalizes her argument that the state provides incentives that help workers overcome barriers to collective action where it faces high enforcement costs. The core of the article is formed by her ethnographic observations of

street vendors, particularly cost-benefit calculations on whether to form an organization, in La Paz, Bolivia. Not only did she observe meetings of organizations, she was also a participant-observer attending to customers and doing other tasks with unorganized and organized vendors, including selling clothes once a week at a licensed stall. Moreover, Hummel presents results from an original survey that helps contextualize her own direct observations. The integration of all these components compellingly supports her argument to look at the role of the state to explain when informal workers organize. Bravo.

Sage Paper Award

This award recognizes the best paper on qualitative and multi-methods research presented at the previous year's meeting of the American Political Science Association. The selection committee consisted of Alison Post (University of California, Berkeley), chair; Ryan Griffiths (Syracuse University); and Noah Nathan (University of Michigan).

Winner of the 2018 Award: Ana Catalano Weeks. "Why Are Gender Quota Laws Adopted by Men? The Role of Inter-and Intra-Party Competition."

Prize citation: We have unanimously chosen to award the 2018 Sage Best Paper prize to Ana Catalano Weeks for her submission, "Why Are Gender Quota Laws Adopted by Men? The Role of Inter-and Intra-Party Competition." This empirically focused paper addresses an increasingly prevalent, substantively important, and puzzling phenomenon: the adoption of gender quota laws in countries in which the vast majority of party elites and lawmakers are men. In the paper, she presents a compelling two-part argument for why male political elites would voluntarily restrict their own access to office. Parties will champion such laws when facing credible challengers from parties to the left. They will also be employed by party elites as a means of wresting control of candidate selection processes from entrenched local party elites. The empirical portion of the paper examines two paired comparisons of cases of adoption and non-adoption, highlighting the first and second mechanism respectively (Belgium and Austria, and Portugal and Italy).

The Catalano paper stood out from the rest of the pool for two reasons. First, the portion of the argument focusing on intra-party competition is compelling and

unusual. Intra-party contests for power—particularly party actors operating at different spatial scales—are often missed in cross-national quantitative and game theoretic studies. Second, we found the multi-method approach taken in the article to be both well suited to the research topic and extremely well executed. Employing process tracing in specific cases, as she does, makes sense given that the focus of the paper is strategic motivations of key participants. These motivations would be hard to uncover and code in a large-N setting. The paper also utilizes statistical matching to choose cases to compare with the main "positive" cases of quota adoption. While the approach has been advocated for a few years, Catalano's use of it is one of the first we have seen in empirical papers, and its implementation is presented with impressive clarity in the paper appendix. The paper also presents the interview data upon which it draws in an unusually transparent fashion, providing an appendix detailing whom was contacted, which interviews were accepted, and how interview data can be accessed. In all of these respects, the paper represents a model of clarity and transparency in multi-method research that we hope others will emulate.

David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award

This award honors the important contributions of David Collier to the discipline through his research, graduate teaching, and institution-building and, more generally, as a founder of the qualitative and multi-method research movement in contemporary political science. The award is presented annually to a mid-career political scientist to recognize distinction in methodological publications, innovative application of qualitative and multi-method approaches in substantive research, and/or institutional contributions to this area of methodology.

Winner of the 2018 Award: Jason Seawright, Northwestern University.

Selection Committee: Melani Cammett (chair), Harvard University; Andrew Bennett, Georgetown University; Alan Jacobs, University of British Columbia; and Lauren Morris MacLean, Indiana University

Prize citation: Jason (Jay) Seawright has achieved distinction in all three areas honored by the award: publications on research methods, the innovative

application of qualitative and multi-methods techniques to substantive areas of research, and institution-building related to qualitative and multi-methods research. He has had a broad impact among scholars working across different traditions in the section and the discipline.

With regard to his work on research methods, Jay has made seminal contributions to the way that political scientists understand the contributions of qualitative and multi-methods research to descriptive and causal inference. His work in this area focuses on the distinctive value of qualitative methods to the discipline and to research designs employing multiple methods, showing what such work can and cannot contribute, and how to carry out rigorous qualitative work.

Jay has also contributed extensively to a foundational text in qualitative and multi-methods research—*Rethinking Social Inquiry*, for which he wrote a critical chapter on the distinction between dataset versus causal process observations, thereby helping to clarify for qualitative scholars the logic of within-case causal inference. His co-authored essay (with John Gerring) on "Case selection techniques in case study research" is an important reference and has been cited over 1500 times and counting. His own 2016 book—*Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*—is poised to become his most important work to date. In the book, he advocates for a unified approach to social science methods. The book is becoming an essential resource for anyone who engages in multi-method work and is generating much discussion, both among those who apply its approach, which is grounded in statistical theory, and others who advocate a distinct approach to qualitative and multi-method research. These are just a few examples of his published contributions to research methods in the social sciences.

Jay's own substantive research, which largely but not exclusively centers on Latin America, has also made valuable contributions. In his 2012 book, *Party System Collapse*, he explores the breakdown of political order in Peru and Venezuela, examining why voters abandoned traditional parties and why these parties could not respond adequately to the challenges they faced. Jay follows his own high methodological standards in developing and testing his arguments, resulting in a convincing and carefully argued book that takes causal complexity seriously.

Jay has a full research agenda that shows no signs of abating and continues to address important methodological and substantive issues. For example, in a current co-authored project, *Billionaires and Stealth Politics*, he and his collaborators focus on how the wealthiest Americans use their wealth to influence politics. Needless to say, this is a topic of enduring importance and one that is particularly urgent at this time.

Jay also contributes regularly and actively to institutions and programs devoted to qualitative and multi-methods research. For many years, he has taught a comprehensive course on multi-methods research at the IQMR, the APSA QMMR short course, and other methods training institutions in the US and abroad. He has been active in governance for this section, participating in multiple section committees over the years, and currently as president-elect.

In short, Jay is a unique recipient of the Collier award because he distinguishes himself in all areas celebrated by the award—the generation, application, and promotion of qualitative and multi-method research in the discipline.