

Letter from the President:

It is my pleasure as incoming President of the Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research section to thank our sections' members for the excellent, cutting-edge, and intellectually engaged research and other scholarly activities that have established our community as home to many foundational contributors to political science and the social sciences more generally. In recent years, our section has had the opportunity to support the development and publication of important new work that is purely methodological, as well as exceptional applications of qualitative and multi-method research techniques to key substantive areas. We have recognized such work through our section awards, workshoped work in progress through sponsored APSA sessions, and published select contributions through the section's excellent journal.

We find ourselves in a broader political moment when efforts at exclusion based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality have gathered strength in many parts of the world. Members of our section have long offered scholarly analysis of these efforts and of the movements that arise in opposition to them. In this historical moment of increased opposition to efforts at reversing long-standing patterns of exclusion, it is imperative that we redouble not only our scholarly efforts to understand, document, and analyze these phenomena, but also our practical work to ensure that our scholarly community represents the kind of inclusion that we want to achieve in the broader world.

As one concrete step in this direction, I ask each member of the organized section to make a concerted effort to use our section awards nomination process to amplify the excellent work on and using qualitative methods by scholars who are women, people of color, working at institutions in the developing world, and/or in other traditionally marginalized categories. Each year, such scholars produce an enormous array of interesting and innovative books, articles, and conference papers developing and/or using qualitative methods. Yet our section's awards committees can only consider the pieces that receive a nomination.

By making a special effort to read, recognize, and nominate great work by scholars from historically marginalized communities and identity categories, we can help the QMMR section live up to its potential as an exemplar of social as well as intellectual and methodological diversity. This effort can have broader effects, as well. Section awards can draw attention to job applications, strengthen tenure files, and help build a case for promotion. Hence, the efforts we make to highlight the contributions of diverse scholars within the qualitative and multi-methods community can help increase the pluralism of academia more generally.

Furthermore, the effort involved in nominating deserving work is minimal. For the Alexander L. George Article Award, articles or chapters in edited volumes can be nominated simply by emailing a PDF of the work to celman@syr.edu by the end of January 2020. No elaborate nominating message is needed, and the effort to include authors from diverse backgrounds who may not think to nominate themselves will surely strengthen the section. This call for nominations of scholars with diverse backgrounds and identities is also highly relevant to the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award, recognizing scholars who have made significant contributions to qualitative and multi-method research and who are still in the 15-year period after the receipt of their Ph.D. Here, a bit more work is needed. A nomination requires a cover letter making a specific case for the achievements of the candidate and also an up-to-date curriculum vitae. These materials can be sent to j-seawright@northwestern.edu by the end of January 2020.

On a different note, I wish to thank Melani Cammett for her excellent leadership of the section over the last two years, and also Henry Hale for his service as vice president. Jennifer Larson has organized an excellent set of panels as the 2019 division chair, and she deserves thanks and recognition for these efforts. Colin Elman has continued his decades-long indefatigable service to the section and the broader cause of qualitative and multi-method research as secretary-treasurer of the section and also as the leader of the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research. It is hard to overstate his contributions this and every year. Jennifer Cyr remains an innovative and creative editor of the section publication, but I wish to especially recognize the contributions of her co-editor, Kendra Koivu. Kendra put an enormous amount of work into the newsletter, intellectual and otherwise, in the face of immense challenges during the last years of her life. The section has benefitted greatly from her efforts. I think her work on the newsletter and more broadly will be fittingly commemorated by the section paper award, which has been renamed in her honor. Finally, I appreciate the intellectual vitality that makes this section such a stimulating, ever-changing space. My thanks to each of you for your ongoing contributions!

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