Giovanni Sartori QMMR Book Award

This award recognizes the best book, published in the calendar year 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 Alisha Holland (Harvard University), chair; Nuno Monteiro (Yale University); and Andrew Bennett (Georgetown University).

Winner of the 2019 Award: Simeon Nichter. 2018. *Votes for Survival: Relational Clientelism in Latin America.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Honorable Mention: Abigail Fisher Williamson. 2018. *Welcoming New Americans? Local Governments and Immigrant Incorporation.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Prize Citation: The Committee is delighted to award the 2019 Sartori Award to *Votes for Survival: Relational Clientelism in Latin America* by Simeon Nichter. In the crowded field of studies of clientelism, Nichter breaks conceptual ground by underscoring the importance of relational clientelism, or exchange relationships that occur between election cycles. Nichter also highlights vulnerability, as opposed to poverty, in explaining important puzzles about the persistence and targeting of clientelistic benefits. The book provides a convincing account of how citizens actively sustain clientelistic relationships through their demands for benefits and ability to signal their loyalties. It stands out for its analytical clarity. Nichter derives a range of testable propositions and evaluates them across different scales of analysis, from the effects of changing national-level electoral laws to individual-level benefit receipt. The book is particularly suited for the Sartori Prize given its ability to seamlessly incorporate various types of evidence and methods. A formal model is beautifully integrated into the text, a natural experiment

pins down the importance of economic vulnerability, interviews in rural Brazil substantiate the mechanisms, and two original surveys (as well as compiled survey data from across the region) elaborate the core arguments and extend them beyond the case of Brazil. *Votes for Survival* is an exemplary work of scholarship that will reorient debates around clientelism and serve as a touchstone for scholars looking to conduct mixed methods research.

The Committee has decided to provide an honorable mention to *Welcoming New Americans? Local Governments and Immigrant Incorporation* by Abigail Fisher Williamson for the 2019 Sartori Award. *Welcoming New Americans?* asks a pressing political question—why do some communities accommodate immigrants, while others ignore or restrict them? The book establishes surprising variation in local responses to immigrants. It is not just urban, liberal areas that welcome immigrants—quite the opposite, small and mid-sized towns often engage in practices to accommodate immigrants and do so more over time. It advances an intriguing argument that bureaucrats who are required to provide services to immigrants under national laws then become important pressure groups to push for more accommodating local practices, whereas local politicians responding to electoral pressure often push against such approaches. In the spirit of the Sartori award, the book provides a rigorous conceptualization of formal and informal local accommodating policies. It then evaluates the causes of variation through an impressive original survey and compelling qualitative research in four new immigrant destinations that vary in their responses and trajectories over time. Williamson's work shows the importance of using mixed methods to uncover nuance in a polarized debate like local responses to immigrants.

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 Lindsay Mayka (Colby College), chair; Kate Baldwin (Yale University), and Jack Levy (Rutgers University).

Prize Citation: The award committee is delighted to award the 2019 George Award to Jennifer Larson and Janet Lewis for "Rumors, Kinship Networks, and Rebel Group Formation," published in *International Organization*. Larson and Lewis's creative article is a superb example of how careful qualitative methods can drive theory forward by identifying overlooked questions and cases.

Larson and Lewis start from a crucial yet understudied moment in civil conflict: the "launching" of new rebel groups. Whereas most studies focus on established rebel groups, Larson and Lewis ask why some groups are able to consolidate during their vulnerable early days. Through an analysis of Uganda, Larson and Lewis argue that different kinship structures shape communication networks, enabling the spread of rumors that help nascent rebel groups gain the trust of local communities. This trust is essential for emergent rebel groups to consolidate and become viable.

Larson and Lewis's article has several methodological strengths that are worthy of commendation. First, the paper reveals ways that qualitative research can uncover overlooked political phenomena, thereby opening up new lines of inquiry. The paper starts from an empirical oversight: quantitative datasets omit most cases of rebel groups that fizzle out before gaining viability. For example, the Correlates of War dataset includes only 1 out of 16 rebel groups in Uganda, while the more complete PRIO dataset still only includes 7 out of 16. Through qualitative analysis, Larson and Lewis explore the question of why most rebel groups failed to launch, while only a few succeeded. Second, the study serves as a model of mixed-methods analysis, bringing together a game theoretic model, network analysis, a paired case comparison, and extensive field research which generated 200 interviews and four focus groups.

In summation, Larson and Lewis's article serves as a model of qualitative political science research, in line with the legacy of Alexander George.

The award committee awarded Honorable Mention for the 2019 George Award to Paul Musgrave and Daniel Nexon for their article, "Defending Hierarchy from the Moon to the Indian Ocean: Symbolic Capital and Political Dominance in Early Modern China and the Cold War," published in *International Organization*. Musgrave and Nexon ask: Why do leaders invest in costly projects that they expect will not yield appreciable military or economic benefits? They point to the ways that concerns about legitimacy lead states to seek to dominate areas of high symbolic value—steps that may, on the surface, seem like inefficient investments of wealth and labor. Perhaps the paper's most impressive methodological contribution is Musgrave and Nexon's use of Annotation for Transparent Inquiry (ATI), which allows them to share additional evidence, context, and insights about their interpretations of source material. Beyond its transparency-related merits, Musgrave and Nexon's article reveals how ATI can make process tracing more rigorous and effective. The authors draw on a wealth of evidence to evaluate expectations both from their theory and from alternative theories. It is no surprise, then, that this article has been held up as a model to teach others how to use ATI, and of ATI's benefits.

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 Matt Amengual (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), chair; Sara Newland (Smith College); and Elliot Posner (Case Western University).

Winner of the 2019 Award: Paul Schuler and Chad Westerland, "Reconsidering the Rubber Stamp Thesis: A Consolidation Theory of Expropriations and Legislatures in Party-based Autocracies."

The Sage Paper Award had a number of very high-quality submissions. Ultimately, the committee was especially impressed by Schuler and Westerland's paper, "Reconsidering the Rubber Stamp Thesis:

A Consolidation Theory of Expropriations and Legislatures in Party-based Autocracies." This paper explores the question: Do authoritarian legislatures prevent autocrats from expropriating? To answer this question, the authors apply the most cutting-edge Bayesian qualitative research methods, including those being developed by Fairfield and Charman. The authors clearly lay out observable implications of competing theories, develop an original dataset, explicitly examine clues in the data, and systematically address alternatives. The data analysis is transparent through the use of a well documented appendix. The paper stands out by showing how powerful new methods can be for disentangling complex causal processes. We believe that this paper will serve as a model for qualitative researchers to follow in the future.

David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award

The David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award of the Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR) Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) 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. The selection committee consisted of Melani Cammett (Harvard University), chair; Markus Kreuzer (Villanova University); and Jason Seawright (Northwestern University).

Winner of the 2019 Award: Carsten Schneider, Central European University

Prize Citation: The committee enthusiastically awards the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award to Professor Carsten Schneider of the Central European University. For his research and teaching contributions to qualitative and multi-methods research, and to the discipline of political science more broadly, he is without question the most deserving recipient of this 2019 award. This citation briefly notes his contributions to research and institution building.

Carsten Schneider is widely regarded as being one of the most important qualitative methodologists in political science of his generation. His research and writings on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) are well-known, influential, and agenda-setting. His publications in this area cover an extensive range of material, including both general overviews of QCA and original research on specific topics related to combining QCA with case study research. Schneider's own empirical research includes some of the most important applications of QCA. Furthermore, he is a major player within the field of qualitative and comparative methodology, and within the QMMR section.

The influence of Schneider's work is easily documented through standard metrics such as Google Scholar citation counts, which have been growing at a rapid clip, as well as other indices. These measures show that Schneider is on track to become one of the most cited political scientists in his cohort, regardless of field or topic.

Schneider and Claudius Wagemann's 2012 *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences* deserves special mention. The book encompasses the whole family of set-theoretic methods, ranging from large and medium-N QCA to set-theoretic case studies, and illustrates these methods vividly with many examples and applications. This widely-acclaimed book has had a large impact—one that continues to grow—and has become a go-to resource for QCA users. In a series of articles published in top peer-reviewed journals, Schneider has also developed several related methodological innovations. Given the ambivalent views of the disciplinary mainstream of political science towards qualitative methodology as well as the very low acceptance rates in top journals, Schneider's ability to repeatedly publish in the major disciplinary outlets is strong evidence of the excellence of his contributions.

In addition to his methodological interests and talents, Schneider also has a strong record of accomplishment as a scholar of political regime change. (This work has also received numerous citations.) Early in his career, in collaboration with Philippe Schmitter, he led a major effort to gather data on components of regime change, including liberalization, modes of transition, and consolidation in different world regions. A co-authored article analyzing these data won the 2004 *Democratization* Frank Cass Prize for the best article by a young scholar. His first book, *The Consolidation of Democracy in Europe and Latin America* (2008), also addresses the theme of regime change and itself makes important contributions to the study of regime consolidation. Various scholars who have discovered the importance of asymmetric hypotheses in

the analysis of democratic transitions and consolidation are now returning to its core findings, which are cast in terms of necessary and sufficient conditions.

Schneider's role in institution building around qualitative methodology and research is equally impressive. In Europe, he has organized and taught at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Methods Summer School for the last ten years and, in 2019, was the lead organizer for ECPR, which is being held at Central European University (CEU). Schneider has been an instructor of QCA methods at the meetings of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and at the Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM). At CEU, Schneider has also served as director of the Center for the Study of Imperfections in Democracies (DISC). This center deals with a broad range of topics related to the quality of democracy.

Schneider gives frequent talks on qualitative and multimethod research at various universities in Europe and Latin America and has been invited to teach short courses on methods at more than 20 universities in Europe. It is worth noting that Schneider has been able to achieve all of this while working at CEU, including as Department Chair of Political Science, which has faced a most challenging and uncertain academic environment since the government of Victor Orbán came to power in Hungary.

In the United States, Schneider has played major roles in teaching and advancing qualitative methodology at APSA and the Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research (IQMR) in Syracuse. He has taught several times at IQMR, serving as the module leader for set-theoretic methods, and has taught short courses on QCA methods at APSA meetings. He has been an active member of and participant in the QMMR section and has published widely in the QMMR newsletter.

Schneider has consistently strived to build bridges among scholars using different methodologies. He has long advocated the linking of established case study methodologies, such as process tracing and typological theory, with the tools of QCA. Similarly, he has explored the appropriate relationship between regression analysis and QCA. In all of these efforts, Schneider has participated in debates about methodology with a respectful and constructive approach and is one of the most important voices in fostering linkages across methodological approaches in political science.

For these reasons and more we are pleased to award the 2019 Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award to Carsten Schneider.