

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Political Science Association



Hosted by Berea College
February 27th - 28th

Conference Information:

All panels will be held in the **MAC Natural Sciences and Health Building**, 271 N. Main St (icon #34 on the map below). Link to online campus map provided below.



The most convenient Visitor Lot for the conference is **the Lower Seabury lot (also called Visitor Parking Lot North on some campus maps)** which is located next to the Farm Store and the MAC building, though any visitor lot is acceptable.

A **printable parking pass** can be found on the next page.

Link to online campus map: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://bereafaust.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2024_Campus-Map-with-Key_vertical_v5-1.pdf



Parking Pass
Kentucky Political Science
Association Conference,
February 27-28, 2026

Friday, February 27

11:00am–5:00pm — Conference Registration

Margaret A. Cargill Natural Sciences and Health Building (MAC) Lobby
271 N Main St.

11:30am–12:45pm — Editorial Board Meeting, *Commonwealth Review of Political Science*
Yahng Discovery Center, MAC 455

Session 1 — 1:00–2:15pm

Panel 1A — War, Conflict, and Political Violence

Chair: James Taylor, Somerset Community College, james.taylor@kctcs.edu

Discussant: Carlos Gustavo Poggio, Berea College, poggioteixeirac@bera.edu | **Location:**
MAC 350

- **“Cutting the Head from the Snake: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Leadership Decapitation as a Counterinsurgency Strategy”**
Kennedy Uroshida and Iris Branstetter, Centre College, kkushiroda@gmail.com
- **“From Indirect Rule to Militia Rule: Colonial Land Regimes and the Institutional Roots of Mass Violence in Sudan”**
Providence Suenge, Berea College, suengep@bera.edu
- **“Lessons from the Forgotten Classroom: The Impact of Women’s Education on Armed Conflict Onset”**
Caroline Koenig, Centre College, caroline.koenig@centre.edu
- **“Memorializing Horror while Flattening Repair: The Affective Underpinnings of Authoritarian Consolidation in Post-Genocide Rwanda”**
Keni Maithya, Centre College, keni.maithya@centre.edu
- **Militarization Without Resolution: Why Troop Deployment Displaces Rather Than Reduces Cartel Violence in Michoacán”**
Jonael Lantigua, Centre College, jonael.lantigua@centre.edu

Panel 1B — Foreign Policy and International Order

Chair: Jose E. Mora, Independent Researcher, amolafilatelia@gmail.com

Discussant: Weiss Mehrabi, Centre College, weiss.mehrabi@centre.edu | **Location:** MAC 455 (Yahng Center)

- **“From Passion to Pragmatism: Economic Priming and South Korean Support for Reunification”**
Timothy S. Rich and Lydia Crisp, Western Kentucky University, timothy.rich@wku.edu and lydia.crisp744@topper.wku.edu
- **“Different Intervention Choices in Foreign Policy Due to Institutional Ideology”**
Shelby Turner, University of Kentucky, shelby.f.turner@uky.edu
- **“Africa’s Epistemic and Pedagogical Agency in Multidisciplinary Conversations on Decolonializing, Provincializing and (de)globalizing Knowledge”**
Christopher Amrobo Enemuwe, Idaho State University, christopherenemuwe@gmail.com
- **“Coupists in Command: The Growing Credibility Gap of Africa's Regional Organizations”**
Jonathan Powell, Campbellsville University, jonathanpowell@campbellsville.edu

Session 2 — 2:30–3:45pm

Panel 2A — Identity, Ideology, and Political Behavior

Chair: Paul Foote, Murray State University, pfoote@murraystate.edu

Discussant: James Taylor, Somerset Community College | **Location:** MAC 350

- **“Trust Issues: Factors that Contribute to Trust Level in the Supreme Court”**
Lily Jasper, Transylvania University
 - **“Beyond the Blue: The Latino Shift to the Republican Party”**
Josiah Prewitt, Berea College, Prewittj@berea.edu
 - **“Who's Afraid of Abortion?”**
Lilia Saxena Smithson, Centre College, lilia.smithson@centre.edu
 - **“What Best Explains Why Citizens Are Participating in the Growing Far-Right Movement in Australia?”**
Hasel Perez-Garcia, Berea College, perezgarciah@berea.edu
 - **“From Service to Shelters: Addressing Homelessness Among U.S. Veterans”**
Haylee Mae Couch, Murray State University, hcouch4@murraystate.edu
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Panel 2B — Emerging Issues in Society, Technology, and Global Politics

Chair: Carlos Gustavo Poggio, Berea College, poggioteixeirac@bera.edu

Discussant: Jonathan Powell, Campbellsville University, jonathanpowell@campbellsville.edu |

Location: MAC 307

- **“Democracy Promotion in American Foreign Policy.”**
Kristina Cutsinger, Thomas More University, klcuts32@thomasmore.edu
- **“The Renouncement of the Leader: The New International Order and Power Distribution”**
Benjamin Rodriguez, Berea College, rodriguezbr@bera.edu
- **“Downstream Consequences: Water Infrastructure as a Grey Zone Instrument”**
Quentin Ellis, Northern Kentucky University, quentinellis1814@gmail.com
- **“Generative AI Identification Capabilities Across Age Groups”**
Susana Waite, Northern Kentucky University, waites2@mymail.nku.edu
- **“Opposition from Within: Weaponized Censorship, Political Dissent, and the Creation of a National Cinema in Post-Revolutionary Iran”**
Azitta Akrami, Centre College, azitta.akrami@cente.edu

Session 3 — 4:00–5:15pm

Panel 3A — Democratic Institutions, Civic Engagement, and Public Policy

Chair: Randall Swain, Eastern Kentucky University

Discussant: Paul Foote, Murray State University | **Location:** MAC 350

- **“The Impact of Local Government Outreach on Perceptions of Performance and Policy Support”**
Rowan Bailey, Western Kentucky University rowanlbailey@gmail.com
 - **“Democracy Starts at the Dinner Table: Explaining Youth Political Disengagement”**
Veronica Butler, Western Kentucky University veronica.butler849@topper.wku.edu
 - **“Myth of Meritocracy”**
Rhylee Sprague, Murray State University rsprague1@murraystate.edu
 - **“Who Belongs? Public Opinion on Immigration and Identity in South Korea”**
Elizabeth Mikeworth, Western Kentucky University,
elizabeth.mikeworth306@topper.wku.edu
 - **“Institutional Trust and Separatist Politics in Multiethnic Democracies: Evidence from Nigeria.”**
Faith Awah, University of Kentucky, faith.awah@uky.edu
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Panel 3B — Power, Culture, and Political Transformation

Chair: Joel Turner, Western Kentucky University, joel.turner@wku.edu

Discussant: John Heyrman, Berea College, heyрманj@bera.edu | **Location:** MAC 307

- **“Does Political Violence Affect Judicial Rhetoric in Oral Arguments? Lessons from Brazil’s Supreme Federal Tribunal”**
Cynthia Campello, University of Kentucky, cynthiacampello@uky.edu
- **“Global Relations: Distributions of Conceptual Linkages Among Tensions Within Ontological Spaces”**
Guilherme Silva, Georgetown College, guilherme_silva@georgetowncollege.edu
- **“Sino-Soviet Split Cuban-Khmer Style”**
Jose E. Mora, Independent Researcher, amolafilatelia@gmail.com
- **“The Dangers of Denim: Victim Blame Against Southern Asian Women Wearing Western Garb”**
Stephen Voss, University of Kentucky; with Tasnia Symoom, University of Kentucky; Michael Dickerson, Brown University; Rose McDermott, Brown University, dsvoss@uky.edu

5:15–6:15pm — KPSA Business Meeting — MAC 307

5:15–6:15pm — KPSA Networking Reception — Boone Tavern Events Center, 100 Main St N. Berea

6:30–8:30pm — Dinner and Awards—Boone Tavern Events Center

Welcome: Dr. Shewanee Howard-Baptiste, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Berea College

Notable Speaker: Kentucky State Representative Anne Gay Donworth

Awards: 2026 Abdul H. Rifai Undergraduate Paper Award; 2025 David Hughes Faculty Paper Award; 2025 Michael W. Hale Graduate Student Paper Award

Saturday, February 28

8:00–8:45am — Registration, Light Breakfast, and Coffee
MAC Lobby

Session 4 — 8:45–10:00am

Panel 4A — American Politics, Policy, and Representation

Chair/Discussant: Stephen Voss, University of Kentucky dsvoss@uky.edu | **Location:** MAC 350

- **“Policy Failure or Policy Intention? An Analysis of TANF Work Requirements, Employment and Deep Poverty”**
Brandon Cooper, University of Southern Indiana, bgcooper@eagles.usi.edu
 - **“The Geographic Coalitions of Abortion Ballot Measures: Before and After *Dobbs*”**
Chris Kirkwood, University of Kentucky, cski230@uky.edu
 - **“Retribution or Rehabilitation? Views from the Future on Mass Incarceration”**
John Heyrman, Berea College, hcouch4@murraystate.edu
 - **“Civic Attachment, Civic Optimism, and Policy Opinion in a Southern Context”**
Joel Turner, Scott Lasley, Jeff Kash, Western Kentucky University, joel.turner@wku.edu; Scott Buchanan, Georgia College and State University
 - **“White House Advisors’ Role in Influencing the Presidential Selection of So-Called Moderate Supreme Court Judicial Nominees”**
Paul Foote, Murray State University, pfoote@murraystate.edu
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Panel 4B — Political Development, History, and Governance

Chair/Discussant: James Taylor, Somerset Community College, james.taylor@kctcs.edu | **Location:** MAC 307

- **“Examining the Role of the Coal Industry in Harlan County, Kentucky”**
Frederick G. Gordon, East Tennessee State University, gordonfd@etsu.edu
 - **“Time to Get on that 1968 Train with Nixon”**
John David Briley, East Tennessee State University, briley@etsu.edu
 - **“JFK, LBJ, and Progressive Ambition: A Case Study of the Civil Rights Act of 1957”**
Sean Savage, Saint Mary’s College, ssavage@saintmarys.edu
 - **“Employing a Contract Grading System in an Online MPA Graduate Course: Preliminary Thoughts and Implications”**
Randall Swain, Eastern Kentucky University randall.swain@eku.edu
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Session 5: 10:15-11:30

Roundtable — Kentucky Politics | **Location:** MAC 455 (Yahng Center)

Participants: John Heyrman, Berea College; Christopher Kirkwood, University of Kentucky; Stephen Voss, University of Kentucky; James Taylor, Somerset Community College



Dr. Shewanee Howard-Baptiste began her tenure as Berea College's Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs in July of 2026. Howard-Baptiste brings more than two decades of experience in higher education to Berea College, along with a deep commitment to academic excellence, student success and innovative academic leadership.



Representative Anne Gay Donworth has served as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives since January 2025. She represents the 76th district.

**Please join us at
Western Kentucky University
in Bowling Green for our
2027 Annual Meeting of the
Kentucky Political Science Association!**

