

Results tables

2.1. APSA membership, PhD respondents and non-members, reasons for non-membership

Members

Are you an APSA member?	N	%
Don't know	13	5.6
No	54	23.1
Yes	167	71.4
Total	234	100

What type of membership do you hold?	N	%
1 year	51	30.5
3 year	56	33.5
Student	41	24.6
Retired	6	3.6
Don't know/Missing	13	7.8
Total	167	100

For how long have you been an APSA member?	N	%
Missing	14	8.38
Less than a year	8	4.79
Less than 2 years	20	11.98
2 years	22	13.17
3 years	24	14.37
Between 3 and 5 years	23	13.77
Between 5 and 10 years	27	16.17
Longer than 10 years	29	17.37
Total	167	100

Non-members

If you are not currently an APSA member, please tell us why	N	%
Membership is too expensive	4	7.4
APSA doesn't provide value or services to members	6	11.1
I am already a member of another association	14	25.9
I didn't know this association existed	6	11.1
None of my colleagues are members	0	0
I do not wish to attend conferences	5	9.3
Total	54	100

If you are not currently an APSA member, please tell us why:

Other, namely:

Only a member when going to conferences / negative experiences with conferences:

- Alternate my membership based on relevance of annual conference as well as my budget
- Didn't attend the APSA conference
- I usually only get around to joining when going to an APSA conference and haven't done so recently
- I was very unhappy about some aspects of the Canberra conference
- I'll join when I present at a conference, but haven't yet.
- Never been invited to join - don't know how much it even costs - and have a memory of a very hectic and irrelevant conference 20 years ago.
- Given the expense, it is hard to justify membership when I'm also a member of other associations. I am very seriously considering becoming a member, though, and getting involved in the Association.

Membership not so relevant given different disciplinary background:

- Despite best efforts not really relevant for IR people
- I don't identify as a political scientist in either training, teaching or research
- My interests relate to APSA but are not centered on it - I am more a public policy person
- My research is multidisciplinary and as a result a number of academic associations are relevant. I'm currently deciding which would be most appropriate.

Stage of career / life:

- Have just returned to academia/Australia
- I am not a political scientist and I am retired.
- I just haven't gotten around to it
- I've recently returned to academia and will probably join APSA when I register for the conference (if university funding rules will allow me to pay for membership)
- Slipped off the list somehow

What would it take for you to become an APSA member?

If APSA would be more relevant, did other activities, etc.:

- An invitation, plus a notion of why it is relevant, plus what is that you even get for being a member? i.e. newsletters, etc.?
- APSA would have to take a consistent stand against governments' policies if hollowing out universities, devaluing students' education, promoting subservience to business and government, the homogenisation of the discipline by collaborating with ranking exercises and other spurious forms of quality control
- Better conference and other activities
- Better conferences and/or affiliated journal
- Better representation of my field.
- Clearer sense of benefits of membership
- Communication from the organisation concerning benefits etc
- Formal recognition of media history as a sub-discipline of Political Studies through establishment of an APSA-group.
- Have more about policy -how it is developed and implemented,
- It's a political science organization; ISA is the relevant conference for me; not sure what I get from APSA
- Lower conference costs, more Critical IR and research methods
- Membership doesn't really offer any benefits to academics already well-connected. It needs to build more a community beyond the activity of the conference and journal. Without actual activities, ways to help the discipline and academics, it's not really necessary.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More specific events e.g. on gender and politics • Perceived value • The APSA conference would need to attract enough IR scholars for it to have a large number of IR panels • A greater relevancy to my role to require the PD • An important APSA-members only activity
<p>Better quality conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better conference and other activities • Better conferences and/or affiliated journal • A decent annual conference • Cost built in to conference registration (which I think is already the case?) • Higher quality conferences • Is quite linked to my attendance at the APSA conferences • When I attend the APSA conference, I join.
<p>Too expensive / job too precarious to afford membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pay rise • Actually, I am on a fixed term contract ending in March 2018 and don't know if I will be working afterwards in Australia or not. • Free membership with a conference upgrade • I am currently employed as a casual research fellow, so would need to self-fund. My salary is too insecure for this. • I will probably join again shortly as I now have an income again (albeit irregular due to casual employment). • It is rather expensive, so we will see if I rejoin • lower fees • More affordable membership rates • when I have an income I will become a member
<p>Miscellaneous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discounted group membership for Flinders • Getting around to submitting a paper to a conference • I am planning to attend the next Conference in Melbourne, and join APSA. Would love to be involved in the Association. • I do not wish to be a member. • I'd have to find out more about it before answering this question. • It is good to be a member of APSA • Knowledge that it was free and useful
<p>Don't know: 6</p>

PhD students

Are you a PhD student?	N	%
Missing	12	5.1
No	174	74.4
Yes	48	20.5
Total	234	100

Are you currently offered any methods training at your university?	N	%
Missing	3	6.25
Yes	31	64.58
No	14	29.17
Total	48	100

If yes, is this training:	N	%
Specifically focused on Political Science or International Relations	6	19.35
Part of broader social science training	25	80.65
Total	31	100

If your University does offer training, briefly outline what is provided for students:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A course to learn about positivist quantitative methods • A few introductory methods / research design courses • Baby's first chi-squared. Remedial at best and does not constitute anything but window dressing. • EndNote • General qualitative and quantitative methods courses • General teaching training, writing, surviving a PhD • GradCert Research. Qual and quant general units for all postgrads. Social science/pol sci does not run anything or engage in the units offered • Guest speakers • Very ad hoc, unenthusiastic set of seminars • Induction on research methodologies, Nvivo and SPSS training • It is broad and sparse. Occasionally I receive an email about some training, but the timing is usually inconvenient. As an example, I received an email about qualitative interviewing training, which is great, but I've already done that part of my research, and it wasn't offered prior to this date. • Mainly focused on quantitative methods • Many workshops and tutorials on research methods/methodology and writing skills. • Methods, Literature Review • My department offered and still does offer two undergraduate courses in social research methods at advanced undergraduate level. This has been very valuable in my current PhD research. • Nick Hopwood's Qualitative Data Analysis 3 day course covers: the important difference between claims and conclusions, using theory in analysis, making and justifying interpretations, how to quote and argue your case using qualitative data, software for qualitative analysis, and more! This is ideal for students who are in the midst of data collection, or will have recently completed fieldwork by the time of the course. 2. • NVivo • One course on research design, one on qual methods, and one on quant methods • Optional courses available sometimes • Periodic methods training - not part of candidature • Qualitative analysis approaches • Quant and qual methods; software (Excel; SPSS; Nvivo) • Seminar of research methodology • Software training • Unfortunately, the offering is centred on quantitative training and positivist methodologies.

- Various online modules and face to face workshop series, e.g. "the researchable question"
- Various online modules during first year; also several different campus-delivered workshop series (e.g. "the researchable question")

Have you taken any methods training outside your university?	N	%
Missing	3	6.25
Yes	12	25
No	33	68.75
Total	48	100

If yes, was this funded by the university?	N	%
Yes, fully funded	4	33.33
Yes, partly funded	1	8.33
No, paid myself	5	41.67
Training was free	2	16.67
Total	12	100

How useful would a full day methods workshop (held in conjunction with the APSA conference) be for you?	N	%
Missing	3	6.25
Very useful	16	33.33
Useful	19	39.58
No preference	3	6.25
Not useful	6	12.5
Not at all useful	1	2.08
Total	48	100

2.2. APSA and its activities

How much do you agree with the following statements?

It's important to have a national professional association	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
Strongly agree	149	63.68
Agree	53	22.65
Neither agree nor disagree	5	2.14
Don't know	1	0.43
Total	234	100

APSA membership should be open to all those teaching and researching politics, irrespective of subfield or discipline	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
Strongly agree	158	67.52
Agree	39	16.67
Neither agree nor disagree	4	1.71
Disagree	6	2.56
Don't know	1	0.43
Total	234	100

APSA currently engages in a number of activities. How important are the following activities to you?

Current APSA activities	% Very important	% Important	Total
Australian Journal of Political Science	47.01	25.21	72.22
Annual conference	35.90	32.91	68.81
Communicating job opportunities	30.34	29.06	59.40
Undertaking advocacy on behalf of its members	28.63	32.91	61.54
Providing funding for workshops	27.35	34.19	61.54
Providing a platform for research groups	26.07	41.88	67.95
Providing PhD training	23.93	23.93	47.86
Communicating news & events	22.22	37.18	59.40
International exchanges and links with other associations	22.22	34.62	56.84
Awarding academic prizes	14.53	35.47	50.00

Which of the following activities would you like APSA to engage (more) in?

APSA activities respondents would like to see more of	% Respondents that selected activity
Communicating grant opportunities	35.5
Communicating job opportunities	34.6
Providing a platform for research groups	33.3
Providing funding for workshops	31.6
Methods training for PhDs	29.1
Methods training for scholars	26.1
Undertaking advocacy on behalf of its members	25.6
International exchanges and links with other associations	25.6
Mentoring	25.2
Professional development (engagement & impact)	24.8
Providing PhD training	24.4
Communicating news & events	23.5
Expert database for media	21.4
Curriculum / teaching development	20.5
Awarding academic prizes	18.8

Other, namely:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy on behalf of discipline (and not just members); working to expand the possibilities of the discipline & encourage reflection on disciplinary boundaries and limitations (eg, PolSci's limited engagement with Indigenous scholarship)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above are good things to do, but not obvious why APSA as opposed to universities should do all of them • Providing support for scholars engaging in scholarly-communication work • Publication opportunities • Research/publications • Supporting publication of monographs on Australian politics/policy/political economy through a subvention and partnership with a scholarly press. Serious scholarship on Australian politics has declined significantly in recent years and APSA should address it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impossible to say; I don't know how strong APSA is in most of these categories.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not interested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical application of democratic concepts using technology, too much words but very little concrete outcome. Innovations should be encouraged to deliver practical solutions using engineering for example and the technology it generates.

In February 2017, the APSA Executive issued a statement on President Trump's travel ban. Do you support the Association undertaking such advocacy on political issues relevant to its members and colleagues overseas?	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
Strongly support	104	44.44
Support	56	23.93
No preference	24	10.26
Do not support	20	8.55
Don't know	4	1.71
Total	234	100

In 2013, APSA issued a list of 'preferred journal rankings' and updated this list in 2016. Do you think APSA should have such a list?	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
Yes	117	50
No	59	25.21
No preference	19	8.12
Don't know/prefer not to answer	13	5.56
Total	234	100

In what areas do you think APSA could improve its services to members? (Open-ended answers)

Better communication, better newsletter, events, job opps, etc. (17/99)

- Basic membership services including renewal notifications etc, and a basic short e-update or e-newsletter containing upcoming events (apart from APSA Conf), job openings and movements, deadlines and outcomes for APSA prizes and funding schemes, etc.
- More communication of job opportunities and events.
- To retain emerging scholars in the academic sector. I am very much keen to continue my academic career in Politics and International Relations and have published remarkably in good journals, but I can see there are limited opportunities for fresh PhDs. I may lack certain skills, but I want to identify and fulfil them. As an APSA member, I want that group which help me enrich my potential.
- A regular newsletter with news and events, including IPSA events. As APSA is an IPSA member it could do more to promote IPSA activities, which often involve Australian political scientists.
- An occasional newsletter, say once or twice a year.
- APSA could be more proactive in communicating with members.
- APSA could be more useful to its members if it circulated a regular newsletter announcing forthcoming conferences/events of interest, job and grant opportunities, and reporting back on APSA activities (conference, AJPS calls for papers, calls for APSA workshop funding proposals & submissions for prizes). The website could also be more regularly updated with this information.
- Communication of news and events and members' achievements (see eg the AHA newsletter)
- Communication with members--more regular email newsletters/announcements.
- Email communications more often so I am aware of what APSA-Australia is doing.
- It seems like we get little for our membership (although communication is improving) in comparison to TASA
- More visibility of what APSA actually does. It seems to me that a lot is going on and that APSA offers a lot of opportunities (funding workshops etc.) but one does not learn about them but by personal contacts.
- News relevant to members. APSA office doesn't communicate enough
- Providing more information for the members regarding national and international politics conferences and journals
- Reduced membership fees if member not keen on the journal as part of the membership; promotion of regional/state seminars/mini-conferences
- Regular communication (either weekly, or fortnightly) or key 'relevant' issues and information. The only time I tend to think of the APSA is when I receive email communication (such as this survey), so more communication will be better at establishing it in peoples minds.
- Service is generally fine; I'm often just surprised to see very little (obvious) activity from the association, and then to see acts like the open letter re Trump's executive order. More regular communications (like, for example, the CPSA newsletter) would be appreciated.

APSA is doing a good job and/or empty response (16/99):

- Can't really think of any. Why do we always have to be focused on improvement when it seems to me that overall APSA is doing just fine.
- Change the name to AusPSA otherwise it is confusing for our international

colleagues

- Create more network outside Australia
- Don't really know.
- I am pretty satisfied
- I enjoy the journal, but sadly I don't find APSA very relevant to me anymore, as a) I live overseas and b) I don't work so directly in politics anymore.
- I think APSA does a good job given all volunteers
- I think APSA does well. I'm not sure I need a hard copy of AJPS - online access would probably suffice.
- I would suggest APSA can suggest future research on various fields of political science
- I'm a very new member and unable to make a valuable suggestion at this time.
- More breadth beyond the science assumptions of "political science
- No particular issues. It has a limited budget and relies on a lot of volunteer labour so we should have modest expectations of what can be achieved.
- Overall I think APSA does a pretty good job serving its members. While improvement is always good APSA should not make a fetish of it. Hence I have no suggestions about what in particular it might need to improve upon.
- Overall, all good

Journal list comments (15/99):

- 2. Employ procedures for establishing and correcting the preferred journal rankings list that are more consultative. There were a number of procedural problems with the means by which this ranking list was established (a. the working committee was drawn from a non-representative APSA exec which thus did not do justice to the sub-disciplines; b. there was no justification of the rationale by which quality was to be judged and no acknowledgment of how quality is judged by the various sub-disciplines; c. there was no opportunity to provide feedback on the final version before it was to be voted by the AGM, and this meant that new journals suddenly appeared with their rankings that were problematic without any means to provide feedback on these new developments; d. it was not clear what sort of evidence was being used (which measures, e.g. JIF, or SNIP etc. etc.) and the reasons why the committee felt that these measures were more appropriate than others; e. AGM voting is always going to favour those with large cohorts (like international relations) to the disadvantage of smaller cohorts like political theory and other sub-disciplines.
- Advocate on their behalf, not set agendas for the discipline (eg journal rankings list which doesn't help members but becomes another cross to bear, and was justified by 'good for the discipline' - just what uni management would say! - and didn't think of member interests)
- You have not provided much opportunity for questioning what already exists. I do accept that APSA probably needed to provide a journal ranking list to assist members BUT that list was quite disturbing. It showed very little critical reflection on conservative rankings which tend to support traditional journals (often American) and which have a very narrow definition of what counts as the political. Areas like citizenship, emotions, embodiment, sexuality, gender, trans and queer studies, as well as conceptual discussions like intersectionality and materialism are much less likely to be represented in conservative listings. To my mind this is the heart of the problem with APSA, which still tends to equate power relations with government and which remains quite resistant to contemporary debates and scholars, and thus to the growing diversity that could and should be attached to a political studies association. I find APSA still to be a very narrow association. It does

not need to be and I am aware that many in the organisation are trying and have been trying to change this. I sometimes become a member but then become disheartened, despite the fact that I am frequently inspired by those members who fortunately persist in attempting to reform the organisation.

- Be more transparent and inclusive about creation of very biased journal rankings
- Get rid of that journal ranking list. It is biased toward some subfields and approaches, and only serves very mainstream scholars and journals. Worse, it is a disincentive to publish either interdisciplinary work or in newer/cutting edge journals. It's the single worst thing APSA does to undermine creativity in the discipline.
- I support the existence of the 'preferred journal list', but I also strongly support efforts to make the list more representative of the range of subfields in which APSA members work.
- If it does have to have a journal list, it would be good if that list were compiled better. Firstly particular fields should not be favoured over others e.g. IR over political theory; it should not be necessary to push another journal down in the rankings in order to get another journal up and if that occurs members should be warned and given the opportunity to respond in support of the journal being demoted; it would be really good if the list didn't reflect an international "cultural cringe" that downgrades Australian journals despite APSA representing political scientists in Australian universities.
- Journal-ranking process was not well instituted. There was too little opportunity for members to be involved, and the final list was not necessarily reflective of either the objective quality of pol sci journals, or the research interests of the membership. It's also not entirely clear what the list is meant to represent.
- More open debate for APSA preferred journal rankings ' database.
- My centre relies heavily on the APSA journal ranking list to guide where we publish. I would like if there were more IR and area studies journals included in this list.
- No journal rankings that only reduce diversity in scholarship and research. They are inherently biased and can never be objective as they claim.
- Oppose the homogenization of the discipline, including by condemning of journal rankings
- The journal list compounds the narrowness of the field; and certainly encourages gaming within the discipline. APSA could have advocated for a much more sophisticated approach rather than journal rankings. Sends a terrible message to young scholars.
- The journals list cannot be a hostage to narrow political interests - it is skewed towards Australian outputs which are little read beyond the country itself, and also towards comparative and admin - political theory is poorly represented in the list. Representations to this effect were dismissed in a patronising fashion.
- The preferred journal rankings list is inadequate and incomplete

Mentoring/support for PhDs/ECRs (12/99):

- I like the idea of providing more opportunities for methods training, and also more substantive forms of support for cross-institutional research collaborations - I'm not currently a member, and either of these would provide some more concrete reasons to join
- I was previously a member. Greater opportunities for HDR candidates to become involved in the association would be good. Greater discipline groups would also be great.
- More networking opportunities and events for members, perhaps based around more active sub-groups/fields, but certainly opportunities to mix with scholars from

other sub-fields would be valuable also. I also find the APSA fees - and the fact that they are not staggered for career level - a little problematic. The reason I was not a member earlier is because it is very expensive for an ECR (a postdoc). Other professional scholarly associations I am a member of have a graduated annual fee, based on earnings. At least a couple of different annual fee types may be helpful in attracting more ECRs to the organisation?

- I think when you have your PhD but no job, you should not have to pay full rates for everything. Maybe allow people 3 years grace before they have to pay full price. Any help with pathways into work PhD would be much appreciated, and advocacy on job share and part time work too.
- To retain emerging scholars in the academic sector. I am very much keen to continue my academic career in Politics and International Relations and have published remarkably in good journals, but I can see there are limited opportunities for fresh PhDs. I may lack certain skills, but I want to identify and fulfill them. As an APSA member, I want that group which help me enrich my potential.
- I'd like to see a little more awareness from APSA re. sessional academics stuck between students and tenured peers. For example, I'd like to see a discounted rate at APSA's conference for those of us who are sessional, to reflect our tenuous employment and remuneration.
- Increasing support for PhDs' conference attendance, supporting them in joining grant application teams
- I guess that is a question of what can be realistically achieved with the funds while keeping it affordable. For PhDs a focus on the next step for careers and mentoring. At the moment PhDs are generally quite pessimistic and disillusioned about their prospects.
- I think that APSA could have an even more reduced fee for postgrad students and ECRs.
- I would be very interested in mentor matching services, both vertical and horizontal.
- more support for PhD students, more opportunities for students to be mentored by political science. two years ago when UCan ran the APSA Conference, there was an mentoring opportunity. The academic i was paired with that year remains my mentor. There could be more short term or ad-hoc mentoring opportunities
- This is an excellent initiative. The Association should open its doors to further engagement from younger scholars, as this initiative seems to reflect.

Supporting research groups/promoting research collaboration (11/99):

- Ideally, APSA would have some funds for research.
- 1. Supporting research groups
- I like the idea of providing more opportunities for methods training, and also more substantive forms of support for cross-institutional research collaborations - I'm not currently a member, and either of these would provide some more concrete reasons to join
- I was previously a member. Greater opportunities for HDR candidates to become involved in the association would be good. Greater discipline groups would also be great.
- More networking opportunities and events for members, perhaps based around more active sub-groups/fields, but certainly opportunities to mix with scholars from other sub-fields would be valuable also. I also find the APSA fees - and the fact that they are not staggered for career level - a little problematic. The reason I was not a member earlier is because it is very expensive for an ECR (a postdoc). Other professional scholarly associations I am a member of have a graduated annual fee,

based on earnings. At least a couple of different annual fee types may be helpful in attracting more ECRs to the organisation?

- More small, one-off grants for workshops, symposiums etc.
- Networking between conferences
- Should I rejoin, platforms for research groups is very important. For instance, I am a member of the British International Studies Association International Political Economy Group.
- Stimulating contact in research groups (and checking that it happens)
- Stronger support for research networks, workshops, etc
- There could be more room for supporting and organising smaller scale workshops and conferences with a strong focus. The annual conference is fine, but very broad considering the range of things folk are working on. Having some more structured events would be helpful on this front.

Greater lobbying/advocacy (11/99):

- APSA should not issue political statements on behalf of its members without first seeking assent from said members. This is an unethical practice - I certainly have not agreed with the last two statements and considered withdrawing my membership as a result. The morally licit and efficient way to proceed is to propose a statement - invite members to sign the statement (or attach their names to the statement) - and issue the statement only on behalf of the members signing same. A small footnote could then be included to clarify that not all members provided their assent (assuming you do not get 100% assent). Otherwise we risk small groups within APSA being able to grandstand on the back of the APSA brand, and also disenfranchising existing members.
- Website could link to The Conversation or Thought pieces around advocacy
- Greater lobbying on behalf of the discipline.
- Advocacy and advice to institutions about journal rankings
- Advocate on their behalf, not set agendas for the discipline (eg journal rankings list which doesn't help members but becomes another cross to bear, and was justified by 'good for the discipline' - just what uni management would say! - and didn't think of member interests)
- Although the funding pool is relatively small, APSA should be doing more in outreach activities - popularising and promoting the profession, and supporting the work of those who do this work.
- Find our common interests and represent them where needed.
- Greater advocacy on behalf of social sciences/humanities across all Australian universities.
- I think when you have your PhD but no job, you should not have to pay full rates for everything. Maybe allow people 3 years grace before they have to pay full price. Any help with pathways into work PhD would be much appreciated, and advocacy on job share and part time work too.
- I would like to see APSA advocating the interests of the discipline in higher education policy generally; for example, Govt emphases on impact are likely to be a challenge for those working in political theory, just as the ERA led focus on internationalisation hollowed out work in domestic and state politics... These are interests of the discipline – not just member academics or particular universities - and APSA has a role in articulating the importance of the discipline.
- I would like to see APSA engage more visibly with the Australian government as a representative of Australia-based political scientists. For example, APSA could communicate to universities and government funding sources that high quality research takes considerable input of time and resources; if Australian universities

are to compete internationally, greater focus should be placed on quality over quantity in publication. This has implications for researchers at all career stages, but perhaps mostly for ECRs. APSA could also advocate for a resistance to casualizations in tertiary sector teaching. Perhaps APSA could put out tenders or requests to members for white papers/memos/original research on aspects of funding/policy as pertains to political scientists.

Conference (10/99):

- All conferences in central easy to reach locations for the majority of members (ie no conferences located at suburban campuses in smaller or less central cities)
- Conference registration is very expensive, with no options (in 2017) for a single day attendance fee
- I wasn't even aware APSA could facilitate communication with other associations. We could also move towards improving the quality of the APSA conference - perhaps requiring written papers?
- I'd like to see a little more awareness from APSA re. sessional academics stuck between students and tenured peers
- For example, I'd like to see a discounted rate at APSA's conference for those of us who are sessional, to reflect our tenuous employment and remuneration.
- If we progressive academics are serious about reducing CO2 emissions and climate change research, we should lead by example and have bi-annual conferences and/or facilitate video conferencing, this to reduce (air)travel. We academics talk non-stop about the issue (myself included) but we are among the worlds leading polluters with all the air travel we do. In my view it is high time we social scientists put our money where our mouth is. If APSA introduced it first, and made a lot of noise about it in international circles, then others might decide to follow, hopefully making it a global trend. There are IT corporations who are moving to this model, with employees having to justify why they cannot meet over video-link, so the idea is less crazy as it may sound.
- Increasing support for PhDs' conference attendance, supporting them in joining grant application teams
- Make the annual APSA Conference a truly international event.
- Offering reduced rates to retired and precarious academics to attend the annual conference, like other associations do.
- Please check in with the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre to ensure that the APSA Conference and the Australian Social Policy Conference (ASPC) are not on at exactly the same time. This clash has happened the last two ASPC conferences and twice I have not been able to attend APSA.
- Skills development, including conferences

Better website & social media presence (6/99):

- APSA could be more useful to its members if it circulated a regular newsletter announcing forthcoming conferences/events of interest, job and grant opportunities, and reporting back on APSA activities (conference, AJPS calls for papers, calls for APSA workshop funding proposals & submissions for prizes). The website could also be more regularly updated with this information.
- The website is terrible and there appears to be no process where members are notified when membership is about to expire. There should be an auto email that goes out when this is going to happen. Social media presence has improved but could also be expanded
- Archive APSA-related documents on website
- No doubt there are limited resources, but the website in general is rather thin on information

- Sharing of teaching resources online.
- Website could link to The Conversation or Thought pieces around advocacy

Promote diversity in the discipline / commitment to disciplinary & methodological pluralism (6/99):

- Working to improve the culture of the field in Australia, especially helping female academics and breaking down the masculine, nasty, brutal, cliquey cold culture of political science in Australia.
- Diversity and inclusion
- Situated in an on-going settler-colonial context and in these times of ever increasing assaults on diversity and difference, a key focus on questions of inclusion, reconciliation and diversity seems important at this time. This includes both bodies, but also epistemologies and methodologies.
- You have not provided much opportunity for questioning what already exists. I do accept that APSA probably needed to provide a journal ranking list to assist members BUT that list was quite disturbing. It showed very little critical reflection on conservative rankings which tend to support traditional journals (often American) and which have a very narrow definition of what counts as the political. Areas like citizenship, emotions, embodiment, sexuality, gender, trans and queer studies, as well as conceptual discussions like intersectionality and materialism are much less likely to be represented in conservative listings. To my mind this is the heart of the problem with APSA, which still tends to equate power relations with government and which remains quite resistant to contemporary debates and scholars, and thus to the growing diversity that could and should be attached to a political studies association. I find APSA still to be a very narrow association. It does not need to be and I am aware that many in the organisation are trying and have been trying to change this. I sometimes become a member but then become disheartened, despite the fact that I am frequently inspired by those members who fortunately persist in attempting to reform the organisation.
- 2. Demonstrable commitment to disciplinary and methodological pluralism & 3. Defending the place of Australian focussed research and the mettle of Australian trained PhDs in political science departments in Australian universities
- The study of politics is an interdisciplinary venture. APSA should reflect this at its conference and within its journal. Any 'methodological training' should equally reflect this.

Better membership administration (4/99):

- Alerting members when membership fees are due.
- Basic membership services including renewal notifications etc, and a basic short e-update or e-newsletter containing upcoming events (apart from APSA Conf), job openings and movements, deadlines and outcomes for APSA prizes and funding schemes, etc.
- I moved about 18 months ago, emailed and phoned to update my details but no one bothered to even respond. So I don't know if I've missed something that has been sent to me. So, how would you rate your member services - maybe another campaign against another foreign government's policy agenda?
- The website is terrible and there appears to be no process where members are notified when membership is about to expire. There should be an auto email that goes out when this is going to happen. Social media presence has improved but could also be expanded

More active, look at alternative models such as UK/US PSA (3/99):

- Service is generally fine; I'm often just surprised to see very little (obvious) activity from the association, and then to see acts like the open letter re Trump's executive order. More regular communications (like, for example, the CPSA newsletter) would be appreciated.
- Maybe communicate more about developments in the discipline - American PSA does this better
- Look at alternative models - British PSA seems more active

Variation in membership fees (3/99):

- More networking opportunities and events for members, perhaps based around more active sub-groups/fields, but certainly opportunities to mix with scholars from other sub-fields would be valuable also. I also find the APSA fees - and the fact that they are not staggered for career level - a little problematic. The reason I was not a member earlier is because it is very expensive for an ECR (a postdoc). Other professional scholarly associations I am a member of have a graduated annual fee, based on earnings. At least a couple of different annual fee types may be helpful in attracting more ECRs to the organisation?
- Reduced membership fees if member not keen on the journal as part of the membership; promotion of regional/state seminars/mini-conferences
- Offering reduced rates to retired and precarious academics to attend the annual conference, like other associations do.

Methods training & other workshops (3/99):

- Greater methods training and promotion internationally relevant research.
- Centralised method training and other workshops for academics
- I believe that training in research methods, especially qualitative methods, would be invaluable

APSA more inclusive organisation/more representative of sub-disciplines (3/99)

- It needs to be a more inclusive organisation that encourages greater involvement from a broader range of members -- it often feels like the organisation is controlled by a select few.
- 1. A more careful attempt should be made to make the exec more representative of the diversity of sub-disciplines, given the advocacy role that it plays. There is a perception that it tends to do well with respect to international relations but less well with respect to other sub-disciplines.
- Who decides on the membership of different committees? APSA doesn't seem very transparent.

Showcasing research of members/reflect on developments in the discipline (3/99):

- By showcasing innovative research of its membership on occasion.
- Greater methods training and promotion internationally relevant research.
- Maybe communicate more about developments in the discipline - American PSA does this better

2.3. Research groups, conference and membership, website and communication

APSA Research Groups

Are you a member of a research group?

Research group	% of respondents that are APSA members and member of research group
Environmental Politics and Policy Research Group	8.9%
Policy Studies Research Group	15.6%
Political Organisations and Participation Research Group	12.6%
Quantitative Methods Research Group	7.2%

Have you attended an APSA research group workshop?	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
No	156	66.67
Yes	52	22.22
Total	234	100

If yes, how would you rate the usefulness of the workshop?	N	%
Very useful	29	55.77
Somewhat useful	18	34.62
No preference	2	3.85
Not useful	2	3.85
Not at all useful	1	1.92
Total	52	100

Are you aware of the funding opportunities available for APSA research group workshops?	N	%
Missing	26	11.11
No	120	51.28
Yes	88	37.61
Total	234	100

Membership and Conference

Do you think APSA membership rates are ...	N	%
Missing	29	12.39
Too high	36	15.38
Too low	3	1.28
About right	141	60.26
Other, please specify	25	10.68
Total	234	100

Other, namely:
<p>Membership rates too high for PhDs, ECRs, and members on sessional/casual contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too high post Phd, when you are at your poorest. • Too high if ECR/HDR. There should be a scale, depending on career/employment level - i.e. TASA • Too high given what is on offer • Too high for sessionals. • Should be a special low-income rate for students or those in casual or part-time employment. • For PhD students, it's high. • As per before, too high for ECRs. • APSA could consider making a category of "casual worker" and fractional membership rates and independent scholar (without institutional assistance) rates to permit those outside the job market or in precarious academic employment to continue their professional development <p>Don't know / don't remember what APSA membership rates are / not applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There isn't very much information readily available about funds received and how they're spent so it's hard to judge value for money. • I'd need to check prices again • Don't know what the membership rates are (4) • Not applicable / N/A (2) • No opinion (2) • Don't know (3) • Can't remember/can't recall (2) • I am not a member so don't pay them.

Do you think membership rates should be tied to your income level?	N	%
Missing	29	12.39
Yes	129	55.13
No	54	23.08
Don't know	22	9.4
Total	234	100

How many times have you been to the APSA conference in the last 5 years?	N	%
0	54	23.08
1	53	22.65
2	37	15.81
3	31	13.25
4	21	8.97
5	9	3.85
Missing	29	12.39
Total	234	100

Do you think APSA conference fees are ...	N	%
Missing	29	12.39
Too high	63	26.92
Too low	2	0.85
About right	103	44.02
Other, please specify	37	15.81
Total	234	100

Other, namely:
<p>Conference fees too high for PhDs, ECRs, and members on sessional/casual contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too high for sessionals • The dinner is expensive for PhDs and low income academics and I know of several who have not attended due to the cost • Should be a low-income rate for students or those in casual or part-time employment. • perhaps great concessions for students and non full-time staff. As we know there are dozens of politics PhD who are marginally employed in the sector • My comments about membership rates apply to conference fees • Need to differentiate between categories of different different groups and charge less to people not supported by their institution etc. • It was hard for me to manage travel costs when I was a PhD student. It's not high, but kind of unaffordable. • For fulltime academics they are about right. More support for precarious ERC's would help. In between getting my PhD and first job this stopped me attending, casual work in that period makes it very hard to attend, but is also such an important time to be out there. • Again, too high post PhD when you have no job. <p>Evaluation conference fees depends on quality of conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is dependent on the location and services provided - often okay, sometimes overpriced. • They vary greatly. • The conference fees are high but not exorbitantly high. • Esp for the conf at UNSW, which was very poor value • Depends on the quality of the conference. some in the last few years have been very good value for money, while others were very poor value for money. More pressure should be put on conference hosts to deliver value for money. • 2017 conference fees are too high. Setting the fees is always tricky but the 2017 level seems

considerably more expensive than in previous years.

Don't know / not sure / no opinion / don't know what they are (22)

Do you think conference attendance fees should be tied to your income level?	N	%
Missing	29	12.39
Yes	104	44.44
No	80	34.19
Don't know	21	8.97
Total	234	100

Have you ever been unable to attend an APSA conference because of financial constraints?	N	%
Missing	29	12.39
Yes	65	27.78
No	140	59.83
Total	234	100

Website and communication

Have you ever visited the APSA website?	N	%
Missing	32	13.68
Yes	181	77.35
No	21	8.97
Total	234	100

Do you use Facebook?	N	%
Missing	32	13.68
Yes	142	60.68
No	60	25.64
Total	234	100

If yes, do you follow an APSA research group on Facebook?	N	%
Missing	3	2.11
Yes, namely	31	21.83
No	108	76.06
Total	142	100

Yes, namely:	N	%
Political Organisation and Participation research group	16	51.61
Policy Studies Research Group	7	22.58
APSA Women Caucus	4	12.90
Postgrad network	2	6.45
Environmental Politics	1	3.23
Political Theory	1	3.23
Total	31	100

Do you use Twitter?	N	%
Missing	32	13.68
Yes	119	50.85
No	83	35.47
Total	234	100

If yes, do you follow APSA, or an APSA research group on Twitter?	N	%
Missing	3	2.52
Yes, namely	51	42.86
No	65	54.62
Total	119	100

Yes, namely:	N	%
APSA	34	66.67
Political Organisation and Participation research group	12	23.53
Policy Studies Research Group	1	1.96
APSA Women Caucus	6	11.76
Australian Journal of Political Science	1	1.96
Total*	51	100

* Note that multiple responses were possible, total number of responses was 54, of respondents answering this question 51.

How useful would the following information be for you to have available on the APSA website?

	% Very useful	% Somewhat useful	Total useful
Annual APSA conference information	64.53	18.38	82.91
Call for papers / conference announcements	60.26	20.94	81.20
Grant opportunities	52.99	21.37	74.36
Job opportunities	48.72	22.22	70.94
Research groups	47.01	29.91	76.92
News / events	36.75	37.18	73.93
Information on the association	34.19	38.46	72.65
Directory of APSA members	29.49	35.47	64.96
Blogs from APSA members	11.54	33.33	44.87

From the list above, please tell us what you think should be given priority on the website:	N	%
Job opportunities	40	30.08
Grant opportunities	38	28.57
News / events	37	27.82
Annual APSA conference information	32	24.06
Call for papers / conferences	29	21.80
Research groups	14	10.53
Information on APSA association	8	6.02
Miscellaneous	7	5.26
Directory of APSA members	6	4.51
Empty/don't know	6	4.51
Blogs from APSA members	4	3.01
Members research projects and/or publications	4	3.01
Advocacy	1	0.75
Prize winners	1	0.75
Total*	133	100

* Note that multiple responses were possible, total number of responses was 227; total number of respondents answering this question 133.

Do you think APSA should publish and email a member newsletter? If yes, how often?	N	%
Missing	32	13.68
No	36	15.38
Yes, every two months	29	12.39
Yes, monthly	37	15.81
Yes, quarterly	100	42.74
Total	234	100

2.4 Demographic Information

What is your gender identification?	N	%
Female	81	34.62
Male	104	44.44
Transgender	0	0
Prefer not to disclose/Other	14	5.99
Missing	35	14.96
Total	234	100

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander Origin?	N	%
No	193	82.48
Yes - Aboriginal	0	0
Yes – Torres Straight Islander	0	0
I would prefer not to disclose	6	2.56
Missing	35	14.96
Total	234	234

What is your age?	N	%
Under 30	13	5.56
30-40	65	27.78
40-50	53	22.65
50-60	35	14.96
Over 60	24	10.26
I would prefer not to disclose	9	3.85
Missing	35	14.96
Total	234	100

In which country are you completing, or did you complete your PhD?	N	%
Australia	128	54.70
USA	13	5.56
UK	24	10.26
Other	10	4.27
Missing	55	23.50
Total	234	100

How would you describe your current employment status?	N	%
Tenure / continuing	101	43.16
Contract	31	13.25
Casual	12	5.13
Student (PhD or Masters)	29	12.39
Retired	10	4.27
Other	9	3.85
Missing	42	17.95
Total	234	100

If you are not an academic, in which sector do you work?	N	%
Private sector	8	3.42
Public sector	13	5.56
Missing	213	91.03
Total	234	100

What is the academic level of your current employment?	N	%
Tutor/Associate Lecturer/Research Associate	25	10.68
Lecturer/Research Fellow	42	17.95
Senior Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow	34	14.53
Associate Professor/Reader	24	10.26
Professor	27	11.54
Emeritus/Honorary	7	2.99
Other	10	4.27
Missing	65	27.78
Total	234	100

Are you an early career researcher?	N	%
Yes	49	20.94
No	150	64.10
Missing	35	14.96
Total	234	100

Do you currently have regular caring responsibilities?	N	%
Yes	80	34.19
No	119	50.85
Missing	35	14.96
Total	234	100

Average % of position dedicated to research	Average % of position dedicated to teaching	Average % of position dedicated to administration
49.02	31.69	21.92
N = 170	N = 149	N = 154

Other roles that form part of academic workload that were mentioned include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference organisation • Journal editing • Book editing • Consultancies • Outreach and engagement • Government committee membership • Contract research • Service

In which state or territory is the university or institution for which you currently work located?	N	%
New South Wales	44	18.80
Victoria	47	20.09
Queensland	32	13.68
ACT	23	9.83
South Australia	14	5.98
Western Australia	4	1.71
Tasmania	3	1.28
Northern Territory	1	0.43
Overseas	7	2.99
Prefer not to disclose	14	5.98
Missing	45	19.23
Total	234	100

Are you a member of any other political science associations?	N	%
American Political Science Association (APSA)	30	21.43
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)	44	31.43
European Political Science Association (EPSA)	5	3.57
International Political Science Association (IPSA)	38	27.14
International Studies Association (ISA)	34	24.29
International Public Policy Association	17	12.14
Other	65	46.43
Total*	140	

* Note that multiple responses were possible, total number of responses was 233; total number of respondents answering this question was 140.

Other Associations mentioned:

National political science associations:

- UK Political Studies Association
- NZ Political Studies Association
- Political Science Association of Japan

Other disciplinary associations:

- The Australian Sociological Association
- International Sociological Association
- UK Social Policy Association
- Australian Social Policy Association
- History of Economic Thought Society of Australia
- Society of Heterodox Economics
- Australian Society for Continental Philosophy
- Cultural Studies Association
- Society of Legal Scholars
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Australian Historical Association
- Engineers Australia
- Royal Aeronautical Society
- Australian Institute of Management

- Urban Affairs Association (USA)
- Australia-New Zealand Regional Science Association
- Australian Association of Professional and Applied Ethics
- Law and Society Association
- Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association
- Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association
- Institute of Australian Geographers
- Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology
- American Academy of Religion
- Australian Association for the Study of Religion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

Australian sub-disciplinary associations:

- Australian Institute for International Affairs
- Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia
- Institute of Public Administration Australia

Overseas/international sub-disciplinary associations:

- International Research Society for Public Management
- International Association for the Study of the Commons
- International Australian Studies Association
- British International Studies Association
- European International Studies Association
- Japan Association of Electoral Studies
- Japan Association for Comparative Politics
- Australian Studies Association of Japan
- Japan Association for Area Studies
- International Society of Political Psychology
- European Conference on Politics and Gender
- American Society of Public Administration
- Association for Political Theory
- International Institute of Administrative Sciences

Methodological associations:

- The Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science

Area studies associations:

- African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific
- Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association
- Australian Association for Pacific Studies
- Chinese Studies and Asian Studies Association
- Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia
- Latin American Studies Association

Please tell us your area of work/study, including sub-disciplines and particular areas of interest.

Do you have any other feedback for APSA that is not covered by the questions?*

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback. APSA has always struggled with variations on the issues in this questionnaire.
- Just drop the journal ranking. It does real harm to creative scholarship.
- The APSA journal list needs to be re-thought on the ranking of policy journals (among themselves first and among the entire list second).
- There is a recently formed APSA research group that does not feature on the questionnaire (Political Theory). It is most important, in my view, to facilitate and support the research groups. Without these groups, it is sometimes hard for those working in sub-disciplines to feel like they have a place in APSA. Thanks very much for organising this survey, as it is good to be able to offer this feedback.
- Since Lisa MacKinney has started in her role, I've been getting more information from/about APSA than I have during the last three years I've been an APSA member. I'm off campus student and I work full time in a non-academic role so it's been great to get emails about the field and APSA from Lisa.
- Greater transparency of APSA committees.
Better marketing to let academics know what APSA can do for them.
- APSA should have many more sections and area studies sections, ranging from 'postcolonial politics' to cultural political economy and many more. So, for instance, in my department quite a few scholars work on Southeast Asian policy and politics, but there are also others who work on international political economy. Also, could you please not list the 'American Political Science Association' as our first option in question 49, it prejudices. Why not list TASA as first?
- Not really, other than at the moment I enjoy being a member of APSA, but to be honest often wonder what the organisation really does for us as scholars - either as lobbying or providing opportunities (of various kinds, from communicating grants, networking, providing workshop funds etc.). Perhaps APSA indeed does a lot, however maybe then, if that's the case, this is not communicated very well. Sorry for the critical feedback! But, as I said, I will strive to remain a member of APSA now as I feel a national organisation of political studies is imperative and immensely valuable.
- It would be good if there was more emphasis given to research focussing on gender and/or feminism within APSA generally, and at the APSA conference. There is often a lot of interest in this area, but it is sometimes sidelined in the scheduling and appears to be lower down the priorities of the Assoc. It would be good if it was clearer that feminist theory and feminist analysis has an important place within pol sci in Australia.
- Not at the moment. Overall you're doing a good job.
- It would be a good idea to promote more actively excellent APSA resources such as POP Politics Aus and the Women's Caucus Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ApsaWomensCaucus/> It shouldn't be necessary to delve deep into the website to find links to these.
- The state of reviewing for the journal AJPS is appalling. I have had articles published in top journals overseas and the comments are always civil, respectful and constructive. In AJPS the comments are often nasty, rude and disrespectful (eg 'This person can't write'). This is a sign of the culture in Australian political science. It is awful and brutal. As a woman it is not a pleasant peer group to be in and it is hard for women to thrive in political science. This has been the situation for such a long time, but it is never addressed. APSA must do something about this - not just get

women talking to each other with war stories - make the powerful senior men take responsibility for cleaning up the culture of this group. Make people accountable for doing something about this. A couple of years ago there was a survey showing how bad things were - presented at the APSA conference. But what happened about this? Nothing. Very few men turned up to hear the results of the survey - it had no effect on behaviour or structures at all. When is this issue going to be addressed? The nasty reviewers make it harder to get published in AJPS than overseas. This is ridiculous.

- No member of the association in SA every reached out to me to participate and while I was a member for a few years, I gave it up in 2015 due to APSA internal politics and the difficulty of attending its conferences.
- It would be very helpful if you did not schedule your conference to exactly coincide with the Australian Social Policy Conference.
- Recognising the gendered nature of care and its exclusion and devaluing seems important as more and more carers, particularly mothers, are facing insurmountable barriers to entry to academe.
- As an organisation you should look at what you want to achieve and target it. Operational aspects seems missing being caught in verbose debate while there is a demand for a people' voice which you can become both the advocate and think tank. The new buzzword is innovation yet not many innovative thinking emerges to bring change. Good luck.
- I had a disappointing experience during the second APSA conference I attended in 2015. Due to this, it prevented me from returning back to another conference. When I presented a paper, the audience gave a lot of feedback which was great, however, I was called naive and was provided with a lot of unproductive feedback. People are entitled to their opinions, however, given I travelled quite a ways to attend this conference, I found this experience to have been somewhat a waste of time given that I thought the other researchers would be interested in helping presenters constructively rather than demean them. I wasn't the only presenter to be treated this way either. In saying this, I felt extremely privileged to present a paper at the APSA conference. I have presented at other conferences as well, however, have only found the participants at APSA to be unnecessarily antagonistic. As such, I think moderators should intervene when a presenter is being spoken to unproductively. I know I did what I could to defend myself as best I could but felt that I was being challenged unnecessarily. We're all academics and we all know how to give productive feedback.
- Change to acronym to AuPSA - to distinguish it from the big APSA.
- Yes, as a Sociologist/Social Anthropologist I would like to see more evidence of interdisciplinarity in your list of journals.
- I think APSA is rather old and inward looking. It simply doesn't feel dynamic or contemporary or really aligned with the reality of the profession. If it wants to be relevant it needs to think how it can genuinely support its members careers.
- I think APSA should be, as every association, leader in the development of standards (ethical, publication etc.) and a hub for information (grants, opportunities etc.). At the moment, there seems to be too little of both of them. In terms of standards, the only real impact APSA had was through the journal list but it seems that the association itself does not fully support it, which really leaves it a very weak tool. While there is information about opportunities on the APSA webpage, it seems outdated and incomplete.
- Please advise conference key dates much earlier.
- APSA is just not that relevant for IR scholars. OCIS is a great conference for IR

people, and otherwise I would prefer ISA. Especially with limited conference attendance funds. There's just not much point in going. Also, the conference is inevitably timed in school holidays making attendance pretty much impossible.

- I would love APSA to be more "in your face", especially for PhD students. This is our professional association, and there is an important role relating to universities, but also to broader political culture. APSA should/could be promoting our public intellectuals much more. Thanks for your work.
- There is a widespread perception that APSA is run by a club of 'old crusties' and 'careerists', serving the interests of their own personal networks and research subfields rather than the wider Australian political science community. There is not sufficient support available for research groups and workshops, of the kind that could meaningfully supplement the consistently low-standard APSA general conferences. The APSA-sponsored journal AJPS is very poorly run and low quality. Overall APSA has a parochial and 'cliquey' character, which diminishes both its professional esteem and the intrinsic value of its work within the Australian political science community.
- Good initiative, keep up the good work!
- APSA might begin a national conversation about the training of social science PhDs in Australia and their career paths. My experience is that people pursuing political science (and other social science) PhDs believe this will secure them an academic career. In reality, very few Australian-trained PhDs can make this transition, the implication being that many PhD candidates feel "cheated" and perhaps that funding on them could be better allocated; in any case, a clearer post-PHD pathway should be articulated at the national level. This is especially pressing given that US-trained job candidates seem more willing to relocate to Australia than previously.
- I do think the website could be used more and the grants available via APSA better advertised. Great idea to do a survey.
- The AHA does a weekly email newsletter re conferences, jobs. I find it hugely useful.

**This open-ended question was answered by 55 respondents.*