



September 9, 2020

### **APSA Statement on #ScholarStrike**

The American Political Science Association (APSA) recognizes and respects the academic freedom of political scientists who participate in [#ScholarStrike](#) on September 8-9, 2020. [Scholar Strike](#) was created to “underscore the urgent importance of addressing racism and injustice in the United States” through teach-ins and other actions. Teach-ins are valuable fora through which to explore fundamental issues pertaining to political protest and social and racial justice through an action-orientated, deliberative, and educative process. As such, we affirm that no actions will be taken against 2020 APSA Virtual Annual Meeting presenters, chairs, or program participants who choose to take part in the Scholar Strike.

We also support political scientists who will be engaging in similar discussions at the 2020 APSA Virtual Annual Meeting this week. The theme of this year's meeting is [Democracy, Difference, and Destabilization](#) and it will feature numerous panels and roundtables on racial and social justice, institutional racism, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and being Black in Political Science. APSA supports and recognizes the important scholarly contributions of Black Scholars and Scholars of Color and we are [actively developing an association-wide plan to address institutional racism and its effects](#), as well as initiatives that will help us to become a more equitable and inclusive discipline. APSA has also developed a [resource on systemic racism and social justice](#) to assist scholars, students and the public as they engage in discussions on race, racism, protest and police brutality. This resource collection is dynamic and acknowledges the issues that resurfaced in the public discourse as a result of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery at the hands of police, and the resulting protests and civil debates about social justice, race, systemic racism and public policy. We encourage participants in #ScholarStrike and participants in the virtual meeting panels on race and racism to utilize these resources and to consider submitting additional resources to the APSA resource collection.

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*Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 13,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.*