

Machine Politics, Sound Bites, and Nostalgia: On Studying Political Parties

Edited by
Michael Margolis
and
John C. Green

Prepared by
The Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics
The University of Akron

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Preface

The Political Organization and Parties Section of the American Political Science Association sponsored the first of perhaps many research workshops on Wednesday, August 28, 1991. Entitled "Machine Politics, Soundbites, and Nostalgia: Substantive Issues and Methodological Problems in the Study of Party Organization," the workshop included a panel of scholars presenting brief papers on research questions and a panel of practitioners responding from their personal experience. The results of these panels are included in this publication, the goal of which is to make the results of the workshop available to students of political parties.

This first workshop was the product of several years of discussion and many months of preparation. Special recognition must be given to the leadership of POP, particularly Margaret Conway, Chair of the section, Ruth Jones, the Program Chair. Michael Margolis served with distinction as the Workshop Coordinator, while Paul Herrnson provided invaluable assistance in organizing the panels, and Michael Brintnall of the APSR contributed logistical support. We are grateful to the participating scholars and practitioners who graciously consented to have their remarks reprinted here. Special thanks goes to Kimberly Haverkamp of the Bliss Institute for her careful work on the manuscript.

The Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics is a bipartisan research institute at The University of Akron, dedicated to understanding the "nuts and bolts" of practical politics with a particular emphasis on political parties. Thus we are pleased to help make the results of the POP workshop available to the broader community of scholars. We hope to provide a similar service for future POP workshops.

John C. Green, Director
Bliss Institute

About The Contributors

Lewis Bowman, retired from the University of South Florida, is Professor of Political Science at the University of North Texas. He has done extensive research on local party politics.

Leon Epstein, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the author of *Political Parties in Western Democracies* (1967) and *Political Parties in the American Mold* (1986). He is a past-president of the American Political Science Association (1978-79).

Charles D. Hadley, Research Professor of Political Science at the University of New Orleans, is the co-author of *Transformations of the American Party System* (1978).

Paul Herrnson, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland, is the author of *Party Campaigning in the 1980s* (1988).

Kay Lawson, Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University, is the author of *The Comparative Study of Political Parties* (1976) and co-editor of *When Parties Fail* (1988).

Michael Margolis, Professor of Political Science at the University of Cincinnati, is the author of *Viable Democracy* (1979) and co-editor of *Manipulating Public Opinion* (1988).