



Third Annual Historical Political Economy Conference

Organized by [Jeff Jenkins](#) and [Allison Hartnett](#) (University of Southern California)

October 16–17, 2026

Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall (RGL) | 650 Childs Way

Sponsored by the Center for International Studies (CIS) and the Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Collaborative

Additional support provided by the Price School of Public Policy, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Department of Economics, and Dornsife Dean's Office

HPE is a rapidly growing field, and this conference provides an interdisciplinary space where scholars can workshop cutting-edge papers on topics including but not limited to economic development, historical legacies, state-building, state capacity, colonialism, nationalism, and globalism.

Friday, October 16, 2026:

8:00 am: Registration (RGL lobby)

8:30 am: Opening Comments (RGL 100)

8:45 – 10:15 am: Parallel Faculty Panels 1

Panel 1a (RGL 308)

[Jay Dow](#) (University of Missouri), Electoral Systems and Party Demise: The Federalists, 1796-1824

[Hoyt Bleakley](#) (University of Michigan): "A Compact Oligarchy:" Slaveholding and Antebellum Politics

Discussant: [Nico Napolio](#) (University of California, Riverside)

Panel 1b (RGL 100)

[Jingyuan Qian](#) (Boston College), Ruler Legitimacy, Elite Oversight, and Power Personalization in Joseon Korea (1392–1897)

[Yang Xie](#) (University of California, Riverside), Brahmins vs. Mandarins: A Theory on the Origin and Persistence of (In)dependent Intellectual Elites
Discussant: [Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra](#) (University of Southern California)

10:15 – 10:30 am: Break

10:30 - noon: Parallel Faculty Panels 2

Panel 2a (RGL 308)

[Susie Schwarz](#) (Swarthmore College), “Bad Men Make Good Roads”: Public Finance, Infrastructure Expansion and Convict Labor in the Progressive-Era American South
[Bryan Leonard](#) (University of Wyoming), Establishing the Land of Opportunity: Land Transfers and Economic Mobility in American History
Discussant: [Kareem Haggag](#) (University of California, Los Angeles)

Panel 2b (RGL 100)

[Soeren Henn](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Institutional Origins and the Balance of Power: Long-run Effects of the Vikings on English State Formation
[Casey Petroff](#) (University of Rochester), What Counts as a State? Measuring State Development and Fragmentation in Europe
Discussant: [Allison Hartnett](#) (University of Southern California)

12:00 – 1:15 pm: Lunch

1:15 – 2:45 pm: Parallel PhD Panels

Panel A (RGL 308)

[Gustavo Hernandez Monroy](#) (University of Minnesota), From sugar self-sufficiency to Mexican enclaves: The case of the U.S. beet sugar industry in the early 20th century
[Sarah Kingsley](#) (University of Georgia), How the AFL Influenced the Passage of the Immigration Act of 1917
Discussant: [David Brady](#) (University of Southern California)

Panel B (RGL 100)

[Sima Biondi](#) (Harvard University), Where to build the state: how ruler-elite relations shape state presence and enforcement authority
[Zhaomin Li](#) (University of Washington), Standardizing Culture before Mass Schooling: The Examination State and Regulated Verse in Tang China
[Hasher Nisar](#) (University of Michigan), The Roots & Evolution of the Ulama-State Alliance: Evidence from Shāfi‘ī Biographical Dictionaries, 823-1436
Discussant: [Rikhil Bhavnani](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

2:45 – 3:00 pm: Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm: Parallel Faculty Panels 3

Panel 3a (RGL 308)

[Miriam Venturini](#) (University of California, Riverside), The Imperfect Union: Labor Racketeering, Corruption Exposure, and Its Consequences

[Jason Anastasopoulos](#) (University of Georgia), When Federal Benefits Backfire: Coalition Stake and the Politics of Realignment

Discussant: [Benjamin Schneer](#) (Harvard Kennedy School)

Panel 3b (RGL 100)

[Rikhil Bhavnani](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Peace Derailed: The Effects of India's First Nonviolent Struggle on Mass Religious Violence

[Allison Hartnett](#) (University of Southern California), After the Commons: Colonial Legacies of Land Privatization

Discussant: [Horacio Larreguy](#) (ITAM)

4:30 – 4:45 pm: Break

4:45 pm: Keynote Presentation (RGL 100)

[Anna Grzymala-Busse](#) (Stanford University), Religion and State Formation

6:15 pm: Group photo at [Hahn Plaza](#)

6:30 pm: Dinner Reception at [Moreton Fig Patio](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2026:

8:30 – 10:00 am: Parallel Faculty Panels 4

Panel 4a (RGL 308)

[Jonathan Markowitz](#) (University of Southern California), A Grand Strategy for Growth

[Clara Suong](#) (Virginia Tech), A Shield of Blood? Wartime Sacrifice and Political Compensation

Discussant: [Michael-David Mangini](#) (University of Southern California)

Panel 4b (RGL 100)

[Horacio Larreguy](#) (ITAM), Effects of Russian Influence on Those Educated Under the Soviet Union in Former Soviet Republics

[Roya Talibova](#) (Harvard Kennedy School), The Costs of Coercion: Forced Displacement, Human Capital, and the Long-Run Political Economy of Sending Regions

Discussant: [Sebastian Saiegh](#) (University of California, San Diego)

10:00 – 10:15 am: Break

10:15 – 11:45 am: Parallel Faculty Panels 5

Panel 5a (RGL 308)

[Jan Vogler](#) (Aarhus University), Prestige and Personal Connections in a Bureaucracy of Violence: Promotions of High-Level Officers in the German Wehrmacht during World War II

[David Schönholzer](#) (University of Southern California), The Long Fuse: The Balance of Power across a Millennium of European Warfare

Discussant: [Roya Talibova](#) (Harvard Kennedy School)

Panel 5b (RGL 100)

[Edgar Franco](#) (University of Michigan), "Jurisdictional Havens": The Geography of Indigenous Identity in Mexico

[Johanna Reyes Ortega](#) (Yale University), Contesting Citizenship from Within: Gender, Inclusion, and Indigenous Governance in Mexico

Discussant: [Alberto Díaz-Cayeros](#) (Stanford University)

11:45 am – 1:00 pm: Lunch and Business Meeting (RGL 100)

Guidelines for Participants

In all public programs, CIS and PIPE subscribe to USC's [Integrity and Accountability Code](#) and [Notice of Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment](#), including the commitment to respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. Adherence to these guidelines and principles not only ensures that participants act with integrity; it also guarantees that our affiliated scholars produce high-quality research with the support of an academic community.

All participants of this conference are asked to abide by the norms and standards of collegial behavior. We support rigorous scholarship with feedback that is challenging, constructive, and respectful.