

MPSA ANNOUNCES THE MICHAEL DAWSON AWARD FOR THE BEST PAPER BY AN EMERGING SCHOLAR

The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) is honored to announce the renaming of the Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar award to the Michael Dawson Award for the Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar in honor of Michael Dawson, the John D. MacArthur Professor Emeritus of Political Science and the College at the University of Chicago. The award recognizes the best paper, regardless of field or topic, by a scholar or scholars who has or have received their terminal degree(s) within six years of the year in which the paper was presented.

Dr. Dawson's research interests include the development of quantitative models of African American political behavior, identity, and public opinion, the political effects of urban poverty, and African American political ideology. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics* (Princeton 1994) introduced the concept of linked fate as a key defining factor in African American politics in the United States and has influenced the scholarship for other marginalized groups. Dawson is also the author of *Blacks In and Out of the Left: Past, Present, and Future* (Harvard 2013), *Not in Our Lifetimes: The Future of Black Politics* (Chicago, 2011), *Black Visions: The Roots of Contemporary African-American Ideologies* (Chicago 2001) as well as articles in top journals in political science.

Dawson is the founding co-editor of the journal *The Du Bois Review* (Cambridge University Press), as well as the founding director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago. He has served as the Chair of the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago and has been interviewed extensively by the media including *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and ABC News.

Renamed in 2026, the \$250 Michael Dawson Award for the Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar joins [multiple conference research awards](#) that recognize outstanding research presented at the MPSA annual conference. Your support of the discipline and political science scholars makes a difference! Consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) to help fund this award or other MPSA sponsored research awards.

Nominations to create or rename an award can be made by MPSA members. The Committee on Awards reviews all nominations and is responsible for making a recommendation to the Council for final approval. To propose a new award or scholarship refer to the [MPSA Policy on Naming Awards](#) and [complete this form](#).

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About the MPSA

Home of the [American Journal of Political Science \(AJPS\)](#), one of the top-ranked academic journals in the discipline, the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) was founded in 1939 and is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in all areas of political science.

The purposes of the MPSA are to promote the professional study and teaching of political science, to facilitate communications between those engaged in such study, and to develop standards for and encourage research in theoretical and practical political problems. As such, MPSA is a nonpartisan association. It does not support political parties or candidates.