To: APSA Organized Section on Political Communications Members

From: Gadi Wolfsfeld, Section President

Re: PreConference Opportunity in Chicago Before APSA 2007

MACHINE POLITICS/POLITICS OF THE MACHINE New Technology in Political
Communication Research and Teaching

Call for Participation in a half-day preconference on Wednesday, August
29, 2007,
17 P.M. at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), just prior to
the APSA Annual Meeting, Political Science and Beyond.

Organizers: Doris Graber, Kevin Barnhurst & Andrew Rojecki, Departments
of Political Science and Communication, UIC

THEME: The preconference theme, Machine Politics/Politics of the
Machine, takes political science beyond the older boundaries of machine
politics into the realm of new technology for research and teaching in
political communication. These new technologies may relate to

(1) Handling content, such as archiving modes, blogs, digital content
analysis
(2) Audience research, such as games, RSS & wiki technology, psycho-
physiology tests
(3) Media systems, such as mapping spatial trends, virtual reality
settings, web graphs

FORMAT & FACILITIES

Unlike the typical panels and paper sessions, the preconference will
comprise a range of hands-on activities and demonstrations, followed by
group discussions about the best uses of new research and teaching
tools. There will be exhibits, interactive sessions for small groups,
guided tours of sites like the UIC Virtual Reality Cave or the medical
imaging facilities at the UIC Medical Center, and much more. The
organizers will work with presenters to locate demonstrations in
appropriately equipped campus facilities. The conference will conclude
with a reception from 5:30 to 7 P.M., serving famous Chicago food and
beverages, along with spirited conversation about the afternoons
events.

REGISTRATION
Because of space limitations, registration is limited to the first 150
scholars who sign up below as presenters, or participants. Registration
will close on January 2, 2007. Prospective presenters should outline
their proposed activity in 500 words or less and e-mail it to
comm@uic.edu by December 15, 2006. The proposal should include full
implementation details.

Presenters are expected to provide their own equipment, including
computers, for sound, images, or other interactions. Once the
organizers approve a proposal, participants are free to arrange for
equipment and software companies to demonstrate technology appropriate
for the theme of the panel.

Presenters will be notified by February 1, 2007, about the status of
their proposal.
If a proposal is not accepted, the submitters registration will move
automatically into the Participant category.

Participants and presenters will receive the preliminary pre-conference
program in March to sign-up (first come basis) for specific activities
and sessions.

PRECONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Open only to members of the APSA POLCOM section or the Political
Communication
Division of ICA)

E-mail to comm@uic.edu; or

Doris Graber
Political Science, MC276
University of Illinois
1007 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, IL, 60607-7137

Name
Affiliation
Addresses Snail mail
Email
Status (check one)
Participant
Presenter