

**Title:** Why Don't Scholars of Color Attend Conferences?

**Authors:**

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**Overview:**

This study examines the participation and attendance gap between academics of color and their white colleagues at national and regional political science conferences.

**Abstract:**

Is there a participation gap between academics of color and their white colleagues in attending and participating at national and regional political science conferences? Despite the large number of people of color who attend graduate school in political science, there is a question of why conference participation among these groups fail to reflect their levels of representation in the field. The under representation of people of color at national and regional conferences reflects sustained barriers to minority inclusion to the field, as conferences are important pipelines to jobs, networking, exposure, and professional development. This study proposes conducting electronic surveys prior to the 2021 MPSA and APSA conferences, as well as in-person surveys on conference site, to gauge why academics of color do and/or do not attend these crucial professional conferences. Utilizing hierarchical linear modeling for MPSA and APSA conference attendance from 2010 to 2016, I propose an examination of individual, group and peer barriers and influences of conference attendance and participation. The research seeks to explain the factors that inhibit minority involvement as well as identify ways in which the professional political science organizations can be more inclusive to people of color and their unique contributions to the field.