2015 CQ Press Award for Teaching Innovation

CQ Press (an imprint of SAGE) sponsors this award to recognize a political scientist who has developed an effective new approach to teaching in political science. The award honors a wide range of new directions in teaching, such as the creation of an innovative course syllabus or using a new multimedia approach in the classroom. In addition to receiving a $500 award, the winner is acknowledged at the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference’s Opening Keynote Session.

APSA is pleased to congratulate the 2015 award recipient, Victor Asal, PhD, SUNY, and University of Albany!

Dr. Asal is recognized widely by his colleagues for his innovative teaching practices, most particularly for his development of classroom simulations. Both his scholarship on teaching and learning and its practice in his classroom qualified him for top consideration for this prize. He is a long-time member of APSA, a frequent participant and former track moderator of the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, a widely published author advocating the innovative use of games in teaching, and an engaged mentor and collaborator in political science. He is the founder and contributing editor of the Active Learning in Political Science blog, an open resource for ideas on pedagogy in the field. He is well known for his innovative simulations and games such as “Classical Realism” simulation or “Hobbes Game,” which are widely used in the classroom; his frequent peer-to-peer outreach efforts; and his service to the political science community. Dr. Asal’s simulations challenge students to think critically and have made him one of the leading scholars on this topic. According to his nominator, he does not simply gift his innovations to his own students, nor does he simply share them with the wider academic world: he also encourages and supports innovation in others.

Biography

Victor Asal has been on the faculty at SUNY, University of Albany since 2009. He is the director of the Center for Policy Research, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, and the director of the Homeland Security Certificate and MPA Concentration in the Department of Public Administration and Policy. He received his PhD in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He is co-director of the Project on Violent Conflict, and affiliated with the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. Included in his extensive research record, are publications on pedagogy and simulations in political science, an area in which he has led the discipline in developing innovative methods of teaching students and practitioners about political violence, negotiation, other significant global issues. Specifically, he has created simulations on the India-Pakistan Kashmiri crisis, minority peoples in Indonesia, a U.S. Senate bill mark-up process, and war crime. In addition, Dr. Asal has trained army officers and civil servants in negotiation strategies, democracy, and crisis behavior. His areas of specialization include Civil Rights and Liberties, Conflict Processes, Ethnic and Racial Politics, Human Rights, Political Development, Political Science Education, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Social Movements, Terrorism, and Women and Politics.