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Positive Changes in Political Science

*The Legacy of Richard D. McKelvey's
Most Influential Writings*

JOHN H. ALDRICH, JAMES E. ALT, AND
ARTHUR LUPIA, EDITORS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Ann Arbor

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Published in the United States of America by

The University of Michigan Press

Manufactured in the United States of America

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2010 2009 2008 2007 4 3 2 1

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A CIP catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN-13: 978-0-472-09986-3 (cloth : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-472-09986-8 (cloth : alk. paper)

ISBN-13: 978-0-472-06986-6 (paper : alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-472-06986-1 (paper : alk. paper)

In memory of William H. Riker and Jeffrey S. Banks

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Acknowledgments

When we first began to discuss the idea of creating this book, we made a decision that the content should be oriented as much towards looking forward as it was to looking back. This spirit is consistent with what we think Richard would have wanted as well as our collective sense of the relevance of his social scientific legacy. In the introductory chapter, we will talk about Richard as a gentleman, teacher, and scholar. Throughout the book, contributors will talk about the range of his contributions, both on the printed page and through his examples. Here, we take a moment to thank a number of people who were critical to the development of *Positive Changes*.

Many people played important roles in helping us attempt to achieve this goal. Working temporally, the first person to thank is Rebecca Morton. Rebecca organized panels on Richard's work at the first major political science conferences to be organized after his passing (the 2003 Southern and Midwest Political Science Association Meetings). The panels were very stimulating and caught the interest of several people including Jennifer Hochschild. Soon after the conference, Jennifer approached us with the idea of organizing a symposium on McKelvey's work for *Perspectives on Politics*. The three of us began to brainstorm about what such a symposium might say and how the opportunity could best be used to benefit its likely readers. We put together a list of contributors and began to contact them. We were surprised by the reaction. The support for a future-oriented retrospective on McKelvey's work was far broader and more deeply felt than we initially imagined. As we started getting feedback from other people on the contribution that such a project could make, we had a conversation with Jim Reische of the University of Michigan Press. Jim shared our energy for the project's potential and he challenged us to think about the project in greater terms. He had a crisp vision of how and where a book based on McKelvey's work could be influential (a vision sharpened even further by the contributions of Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Bob Jackman, and Dave Rohde over lunch). Jim immediately offered to publish the project at UM Press. The book format gave us the opportunity to integrate

classic McKelvey articles with new content, which by this point we saw as a key to putting past accomplishments and new contributions to the service of future generations of scholars. And so the panels became the idea for the symposium which then evolved into this book. We thank Rebecca, Jennifer, and Jim for their roles in this evolution.

Next, we contacted prospective authors. We are grateful that such an accomplished group of scholars agreed to participate. Each one was wonderful to work with. They were effective and efficient in meeting deadlines and in helping us, and each other, to refine our collective argument. A focal moment in the development of this book was a conference held at Duke University. We were allowed to fund the conference from NSF's very innovative Empirical Implications of Theoretical Modeling program. We thank Frank Scioli and Jim Granato for supporting the venture in this way, and Alexandra Cooper and Michael Tofias at Duke for organizing and running the conference so smoothly.

The conference itself was a very productive gathering. We thank the participants in the EITM Summer Seminar of that year for the very penetrating questions that they offered throughout the conference. Participants were Despina Alexiadou, Byoung-Inn Bai, Muhammet Ali Bas, Leo Blanken, Damon Centola, Daniel Corstange, Michael Crespin, Patrick Egan, Lynne Gibson-Gleiber, Matt Grossman, Nikitas Konstantinidis, Jinjie Liu, Peter Loewen, Carmela Lutmar, Monique Lyle, Linda Merola, Kevin Morrison, Kirk Randazzo, David Siroky, Mariana Sousa, Vera Troeger, Joe Ura, Stefanie Walter, and Camber Warren.

Early in 2005, William Keech gave us an opportunity to present several of the papers on a special panel at the Southern Political Science Association meetings that he organized that year in New Orleans. We received important feedback at that gathering and also appreciate the opportunity it gave many of the participants to further coordinate their contributions. We thank Bill for this opportunity.

The intellectual foundation for the book that has emerged is a series of articles by Richard McKelvey. Reprints of these articles are included among the chapters of *Positive Changes*. For assistance with these permissions we thank Zoé Ellams of Blackwell Publishing, Helen Gainford of Elsevier, Ted Gerney of Cambridge University Press, Julie Gordon of the Econometric Society, and Elaine Inverso of Taylor and Francis, Inc. Full citations to the original version of each of these chapters follow the acknowledgements.

The process connecting the electronic version of our manuscript to the book that you hold in your hands was made easier by the skills and substantial goodwill of several people. We are especially grateful to Dilyan Donchev, Ben Goodrich, and Yuki Takagi of Harvard and Adam Seth Levine and Daniel Magleby of the

University of Michigan for translating many of the chapters into L^AT_EX. This job was particularly important as it allowed us to present McKelvey's original work and the new articles in a common, consistent, and aesthetically pleasing manner. At the University of Michigan, Dan Corstange and Charles Taragin assisted in this process and we are grateful to them for their efforts. Elisabeth Gerber, Orit Kedar, Kenneth Kollman, and Gisela Sin also read drafts of several chapters and added helpful comments.

As you will see in the chapters that follow, Richard left a legacy of scientific ideas and practices that continues to influence our discipline. We are grateful for the opportunity to share some of these ideas with you and we are thankful that so many talented and energetic people have helped us bring the idea for a forward-looking tribute to Richard to reality.

Jim Alt, John Aldrich, and Skip Lupia
January 2006

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Each of these articles has been typeset anew to give the book a uniform appearance. To protect the integrity of the original work and to respect existing copyrights, these articles have not been altered. There are only two exceptions to this rule. The first exception is that we corrected spelling and punctuation in the few instances where corrections were appropriate. The second exception is that we edited all references to other McKelvey articles that appear in this book. All such references now include the relevant reference for this book alongside the original reference. Among the content that we have not altered is the reference section of each article. In some cases, for example, there are papers listed as forthcoming that — as of today — are 30 years old. We have preserved the original references in these cases to document the versions of the articles that were available to McKelvey at the time of his writings. Another implication of our decision to preserve the original content of these articles is that the reference sections of these chapters do not have a common format.