

Professor Merrill Shanks

Presentation at APRG 3/2/02

Professor Shanks is the co-author (with Warren Miller) of The New American Voter and a series of essays in the British Journal of Political Science on the U.S. presidential elections of 1980, 1984, and 1988 all of which represent the context or background for his presentation this week. He is also the leader of an alternative approach to assessing the electoral influence of voters' issue-related opinions called the *Survey of Governmental Objectives* (SGO). After pilot versions in 1988 and 1996, Shanks and his colleagues completed a national, production version of SGO during the second half of 2001 that included additional measures concerning citizen participation and trust. With Doug Strand, Henry Brady, and Ted Carmines, he is currently working on a summary report based on that survey for the Pew Charitable Trusts. Since that report has not yet been submitted, Shanks will discuss only general results from that new venture during his visit this week.

Professor Shanks is also the founding (and continuing) Director of the *Computer-assisted Survey Methods* (CSM) Program at the University of California. CSM develops and distributes software for the collection, documentation, and processing of survey-type data to members of an international Association of survey organizations and data archives. Using CSM's software for *Survey Documentation and Analysis* (SDA), most of the variables used in his presentation this week will be available for Web-based analysis later this year, along with SDA versions of all the data from the NES 1996 and 2000 surveys.