

JUNE 2001 / VOL. 16 (2)

Report on Jávea Conference

Spain Panel

Highlight Panel on Federalization in Spain

The Jávea Annual Conference on Decentralization and Federalization featured a highlight panel on research related to federalization processes in Spain. The panel was held at the National Parador and was open to the public. Panel chairperson was Luis Moreno, Research Professor of Social Sciences, Spanish National Research Council. The first presenter was Prof. Mellia Grau, University of Murcia, whose research examined the workings of intergovernmental sectoral conferences (policy and technical) and their contributions to self-rule and shared rule. Second, was Prof. Raquel Gallego, Autonomía University of Barcelona, who reported the findings related "self-government and performance," a seven region multi-author study of policy consequences in Spain. Third, was Prof. Eduardo López-Aranguren, University Carlos III of Madrid, who shared his research on the status of local governments in Spain: trust and confidence, functional responsibilities, finance patterns, and intergovernmental relations. Finally, Prof. Mónica Mendez University of Murcia, reported on her multivariate research related to the structure of Spain's political party systems and how this structure influences the policy process with regard to shared rule between the center and autonomous communities. The panel provided Workshop participants with an overview of the functioning of Spain's experiment with federal arrangements – – political, intergovernmental and fiscal – – and provided a snapshot of the federalism research of Spanish scholars.

2001 Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes of 2001 Business Meeting

The RC28 Business Meeting commenced at 18:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 6 in the Costa Azahar room of the Parador Nacional de Jávea, Alicante Province, Spain. The minutes of the 2000 meeting had been published in the previous RC28 Newsletter. Corrections were solicited and duly made. No additional comments were made.

The treasury report was made by Chair Robert Agranoff. The committee's current dues payment steadily come in from members. A total of 37 of the 80+ members are currently paid. Total dues 1038 USD. The chair submitted a grant application to IPSA to support its activities and \$550 per year for two years was awarded, to offset conference costs and to pay for web development. In addition, Luis Moreno received an award of 150,000 ptas (approx \$900 US) from CSIC to pay for the Jávea Conference Costs. After all conference costs are paid the treasury is estimated to be at \$1700. A full report will be circulated to the officers and board in the next few months.

Maureen Covell, Simon Fraser University, Canada reported on IPSA Executive Committee activities, including their meeting in the Canaries the previous week. Of greatest importance is that Michael Stein, McMaster University, Canada, has been appointed Committee Liason with research committees. Michael is a member of RC28.

Uve Leonardy presented a report on his liason with practitioner organizations, particularly the Forum of Federations. He mentioned that all RC28 members should be receiving a

complimentary copy of their periodical, Federations, and their upcoming conferences and handbook series. He also reported on the U.S. Council of State Governments, activities in federalism.

Next year's joint meeting with the IACFS in Innsbruck, Austria, November of 2002 was next discussed. It was a very lively discussion. The conference theme: "When is it appropriate for a federal/national government to intervene in the affairs of constituent governments to remedy human rights issues?" The suggestion was made by Larry Graham that the words "or accountable" be added after "appropriate." The group agreed. Next, the members convened suggested that RC28 members have a time set aside for its members to present papers on panels not on the theme, particularly related to its four working groups (see last newsletter). It was proposed that these panels could be during the day-long IACFS business meeting. Then the members reinforced the long-standing concern that joint meetings have not always been planned as equal partnerships. Feelings were expressed that without equity RC28 should not enter into such joint arrangements. Finally, it was decided that RC28 Chair Robert Agranoff and Program Chair Franz Gress explore these issues with IACFS President John Kincaid and host director Peter Bussjäger.

The newsletter was discussed and future features were announced. A plea was made for more news about members and volunteers were sought for future review essays.

Discussion ensued regarding publication of the Jávea conference papers. Luis Moreno will pursue a Spanish version, which will require seeking funding for a translation. Franz Gress will explore the English version, initially with publications chair Rudolph Hrbek.

The four study groups – supranational federalism, federalism and regionalism, intergovernmental and fiscal relations, and federal theory were discussed. It was agreed that these themes should be encouraged for the RC28 separate track at Innsbruck and should form the 2003 panels at Durban, South Africa. Another electronic "sign up" solicitation will go out and they will be activated in early 2002.

Finally, the possibility of RC28 participation in the RC34 "State of the Discipline" project was announced. This would involve a long term look at the status of federal studies. RC28 Chair Robert Agranoff has been asked to chair this effort, and if activated would be expected to continue beyond his term (2003). If there is "substantial interest by leading federalism scholars," Agranoff expressed willingness to carry this beyond the Durban World Congress, when a new chair is elected. More details later if the project goes forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

2002 Joint IPSA/IACFS Conference in Innsbruck, Austria

2002 Meeting in Innsbruck, Austria – Joint with IACFS

The 2002 RC28 meeting/conference will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, from November 13-17 at the Institut für Föderalismusforschung. It will be held jointly with the International Association of Centers for Federalism, John Kincaid, President. The conference theme, "Homogeneity of Democracy, Rights, and the Rule of Law in Federal and Confederal Systems," is elaborated on below. It will form the major part of the joint proceedings on November 15 and 16.

On November 14, the day that is scheduled for the IACFS board meeting, RC28 IPSA Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee will hold its own panels/discussions on its four working themes:

Federalism and Supranationalism

Federalism Theory

Fiscal and Intergovernmental Relations

Regionalism and Federalism

The organization of these panels will depend on the number and type submitted.

RC28 members who have questions regarding this program should contact Committee Chair Bob Agranoff (Agranoff@indiana.edu) or Program Chair Franz Gress (gress@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

Theme for 2002 IACFS/IPSA Conference 13-17 November 2002, Institut für Föderalismusforschung, Innsbruck, Austria

The Homogeneity of Democracy, Rights, and the Rule of Law in Federal or Confederal Systems

1.	General	Remarks
As a general subject, the conference will address the question of the homogeneity and enforcement of democracy, rights, and the rule of law in federal or confederal systems (including regional systems, if regions have the power to legislate). That is, how uniform must these matters be throughout the constituent units of a federal/confederal arrangement, and when and how should the federal/confederal government intervene in or enact sanctions against a constituent unit deemed to be inadequately democratic, rights-protecting, or law-abiding? (This subject also touches on the "sanctions" imposed on Austria by the European Union. The system now provided by the Treaty of Nice should be dealt with as well.)		

In accordance with this basic idea, papers should discuss how far the autonomy of constituent states or units goes, or ought to go. Also, are demands for a homogeneity of the rule of law higher than those for rights protection, and those for rights protection higher than those for democracy? Further, papers should clarify which instruments and institutions are used by the federation (and the superior level respectively) to enforce homogeneity and which instruments it is allowed to use constitutionally (e.g., Art. 28 of Germany's Basic Law; Art. IV, Sec 4 and Sec. 5 of 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution).

2. Possible Contents

Common fundamental values/rights?

Uniform democratic concepts?

Underlying philosophy of the relations between the federation/confederation and its constituent states with respect to homogeneity as expressed in written documents and political traditions.

The autonomy of constituent units, focusing on how they arrange the basic relationship between the citizen and the government and on the tensions between autonomy and homogeneity.

Problems of violating the homogeneity of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Enforcement instruments used by the federal/confederal government against constituent units.

How to deal with secessionist tendencies.

3. Conference Structure

Two days will be available to treat the proposed theme. Preferably, basic questions regarding the tensions between constituent autonomy and federation-wide autonomy should be discussed on the first day. The second day should focus on constituent states' violations of common values of democracy, rights, and the rule of law as well as the intervention into their affairs and/or the supervision they are placed under by the federal/confederal government.

4. Call for Papers

Papers are invited on the above theme, especially the topics in paragraph 2, addressing them under the aspects of different states and federal/confederal systems, such as:

Common fundamental values, demonstrated by the examples of a confederal system, such as the EU, and of a culturally and ethnically non-homogeneous federal system, such as India.

Autonomy of constituent states with regard to democracy and its limits (e.g., USA).

How federal systems deal with secessionism (e.g., Canada and Ethiopia).

5. Deadline

Proposals for papers should be submitted no later than 18 March 2002.

Contact:

Univ-DozDr. Peter Bussjäger, Institut für Föderalismusforschung, Maria-Theresien Strasse 38b, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria, Fax 43-512-574-5944, peter.bussjaeger@telering.at

RC28 November 14 Panels

Papers are welcomed for the RC28 one day track on any of the four thematic topics that follow the RC's workplan: Federalism and Supranational bodies; Federalism Theory; Fiscal and Intergovernmental Relations; and, Federalism and Regionalism. For further details on these subjects consult the RC28 newsletter, Volume 16, No.1, posted on this website.

Abstracts summarizing paper proposals for this November 14 track only should be sent by March 18, 2001 to Prof. Franz Gress, Program Chair, RC28, Zentrum für Nordamerika-Forschung (ZENAF), Robert-Mayer-Strasse 1, Postfach 11 19 32, D-60054-Frankfurt am Main, Germany or gress@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

RC28 Liaison with Practitioners

Cooperation of the Committee with Practitioners' Institutions in the Field of Federalism

Uwe Leonardy Members might recall from Newsletter Vol. 16(1) of April this year that within the new Executive Council of the Committee elected in Québec City the function of liaison with the Forum of Federations was assigned to me in my capacity as 2nd Vice-Chair. It was agreed that besides this particular liaising function it should be my task to assist in establishing closer contacts between the predominantly scientific potentials of the Committee and institutions,

which are focusing their activities on practitioners of federalism in general, as also between the Committee and individual practitioners. Institutional cooperation has meanwhile been initiated with the (Canadian based) Forum of Federations and the American Council of State Governments.

The Forum of Federations, founded in 1998, is a non-governmental organization working worldwide for the improved practice of federalism. It defines itself as a “clearing-house for information and resources” within that field and as such it monitors new developments and new practices, disseminating the information it has gathered to its networks. In doing so it links organizations with international experts, who can provide technical advice and assistance regarding particular problems faced by practitioners of federalism. Especially in this area cooperation with the IPSA Committee could prove to be useful for both sides. The activities of the Forum comprise i.a. the editing of a bi-monthly bulletin for practitioners with brief and concise reports on new developments and approaches in managing federal systems (entitled “Federations”), a yearbook on federal countries and federalism-related political processes (as a joint project together with the IACFS), improved access for practitioners to current studies and project reports including an interactive web site (www.forumoffederations.org) and – last but certainly not least – assistance to future practitioners of federalism (youth) in developing an interest and expertise in the field. Participation in the Forum’s activities is open to practitioners and scholars from federations, from countries with some federal features, and from countries considering federalism. The Forum works with both the federal and constituent-unit orders of government as well as with interested organizations. Further information should be requested from the

Forum of Federations; PO Box 1258, Station B; Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R3; Canada
Tel: x1-613-244 3360 Fax: x1-613244 3372
E-mail: cff@ciff.on.ca. Web site: see above

The Council of State Governments (CSG), established in 1933 and based in Lexington, Kentucky, is the most comprehensive and representative state organization in the U.S.A., serving officials staff throughout state government, i.e. in legislative chambers, constitutional offices, executive branch offices and agencies as also in the judiciary. Its office in Washington, D.C. provides intergovernmental and international services to state leaders, and it tracks legislation, publishes reports and newsletters, monitors federal developments, and evaluates the impact of federal activities (including the jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court) on states. Based on the U.S. largest library of state government documents, second only to the Library of Congress, and on permanent exchange of information with the states, the CSG’s best respected among numerous other regular publications are the biennial “Book of the States” and “Suggested State Legislation,” which gives annual information on the most innovative pieces of legislation in order to save the states efforts for inventing the wheel twice. Internationally, the CSG conducts training and technical assistance programmes for government officials from around the world, covering a wide range of topics such as legislative strengthening and also alternative dispute resolution for government officials from e.g. Kosovo and India. Details on the CSG’s structures and activities should be obtained from

Council of State Governments, Washington, D.C. Office
Hall of the States; 4144 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401;
Washington, D.C. 2001; U.S.A.
Tel: x1-202-624 5460 Fax: x1-202-624 5452
E-mail: csg-dc@csg.org Web site: <http://www.csg.org>.

Both the Forum and the CSG have been approached with concrete proposals for cooperation with the Committee such as

exchanging information on the Committee’s and the two institutions’ activities

participation of Committee members in projects and study groups both of the Forum as of the CSG and vice versa

including our members in the mailing-lists for certain publications of the two organizations.

The responses have been generally very positive from both sides, and details will have to be discussed in the upcoming Annual Conference in Jávea, Spain, to which representatives of both institutions have been invited. In the mean time, our members should already have received copies of "Federations" from the Forum, as all of us have been included in the mailing-list for that publication. As a preliminary sum-total it can, therefore, be said that collective cooperation with organizations of practitioners such as the ones described here would seem to be on a promising way. Cooperation with individual practitioners in the countries of our members and, maybe, also in others will have to be an additional topic for more detailed discussions at the Annual Conference. The basis for winning interest for our Committee's work in that area will necessarily have to be built on individual contacts within the respective countries and perhaps also on publications in national periodicals (such as e.g. the German Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen in which a short article of mine both on the Committee, the Forum and the CSG will be published early next year).

Daniel Elazar Endowment

Elazar Memorial Endowment

An endowment designated to enhance the international outreach of Publius: The Journal of Federalism has been established by Daniel Elazar's colleagues. The fund is designed to support Publius; new biannual Global Review of Federalism; provide complimentary subscriptions and back issues of Publius to libraries and centers in countries where resources are limited, research assistance for young scholars of federalism and expanded and up-to-date website information. Contributions will thus enhance Publius' role in fostering global scholarship on federalism and decentralization. For further information contact Publius at: meynerc@lafayette.edu or check the Publius website: <http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~publius/>.

Regional Conference

Regional Governance in an Age of Globalization

International Conference of the Research Committee 17 of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) to be held at the Center for Technology Assessment Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany, March 8-9 2002. This conference aims to examine and advance theories and practices in understanding regional governance in an age of globalization. The conference will focus on globalization and its impact on subnational governments around the world. Globalization will be defined in its broadest terms as growing interdependence and interconnectedness among nations and peoples. Various dimensions of globalization may be discussed—economic, political, energy, resources, crime, health, culture, ideology, etc.

The conference is interested in the intersection of the international with the local and regional and how this phenomenon is affecting the development of international and transnational relations on the one hand, and governance internationally, nationally, and subnationally on the other. The influence of unprecedented technological change on globalization and governance is also of interest to the conference organizers.

The theme is flexible and open to a variety of interpretations. We welcome your paper proposals.

Workshop Organization The workshop is organized by RC 17 in collaboration with the Center for Technology Assessment Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany.

Contact Information

Professor Earl Fry, Brigham Young University, USA
Jon Pierre, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Dr. Gerhard Fuchs, Akademie für Technikfolgenabschätzung in Baden-Württemberg,
Industriestr. 5, 70565 Stuttgart, Tel. 0711 9063 199; Fax 0711 9063 175; e-
mail: gerhard.fuchs@ta-akademie.de

Books and Articles by Members

State Constitutional Center

State Constitutional Center Inaugurates Comparative Series

The Center for State Constitutional Studies at Rutgers University, U.S.A. announces the publication by Kluwer Law International of South African Sub-National Constitutional Law, by Rassie Malherbe & Dirk Brand. In this monograph Malherbe and Brand examine the quasi-federal arrangements that were established by the South African Constitution, clarify the scope of the authority granted by the South African Constitution to the country's nine provinces to draft provincial constitutions, and assess the experiences of KwaZulu Natal and of the Western Cape Province in devising provincial constitutions. They also examine the complex interactions among national, provincial, and local governments in South Africa. In addition to a thorough commentary on sub-national constitutionalism in South Africa, their monograph includes the text of the Western Cape Constitution. South African Sub-National Constitutional Law represents the second contribution to the Encyclopedia of South African Sub-National Constitutional Law, a loose-leaf volume edited by Alan Tarr and Robert Williams, the Director and Associate Director of the Center for State Constitutional Studies. It therefore joins United States of America Sub-National Constitutional Law, written by the Encyclopedia's editors. The Encyclopedia will provide the first systematic comparative analysis of sub-national constitutions within a particular federal system, with a common outline used in the various monographs to encourage cross-national comparisons. Each monograph also includes (in English) the text of representative sub-national constitutions. In some instances, these will be the first translations into English of these important constitutional documents.

For more information about forthcoming volumes, or to volunteer to undertake one of those volumes, please contact the Center for State Constitutional Studies: cscs@crab.rutgers.edu.

Useful Web Addresses

Useful Web Addresses for Federalism Researchers

RC28 IPSA Federalism Research Committee
<http://www.iu.edu/~speaweb/IPSA> Rutgers Center for State Constitutional Studies
<http://www-camlaw.rutgers.edu/statecon>

Forum of Federations

<http://www.forumfed.org>

U.S. Council of State Governments
<http://www.csg.org>

Regional and Federal Studies
<http://www.frankcass.com/jnls>

American Political Science Association's Section on Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
<http://www.apsanet.org/about/sections/section1.cfm>

The Federalism Project-American Enterprise Institute
<http://www.federalismproject.org/>

Institute of Intergovernmental Relations-Canada
<http://qsilver.queensu.ca/iigr/>

Publius: The Journal of Federalism
<http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~publius/>

U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
<http://www.library.unt.edu/gpo/acir/acir.html>

American Society for Public Administration's Section on Intergovernmental Administration and Management
<http://aspasiam.homestead.com>

European Community Studies Association
<http://www.ecsanet.org>

Institut für Föderalismus, Innsbruck/Osterreich
<http://www.foederalismus.at>

Institut für Föderalismus, Universität Freiburg/Schweiz
<http://www.federalism.ch>

International Association of Centers for Federal Studies
<http://www.iacfs.org>

Europa – Die Europäische Union online
<http://europa.eu.int/>

U. of Tübingen Federalism Center
<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ezff>

Review Essay – Spain, By Salvador Espinosa

Federalism and the State of the Autonomies in Spain
Book Review

Newton, Michael T. Institutions of Modern Spain: A Political Economic Guide, Cambridge University Press, Great Britain, 1997, pp.379.

Agranoff, Robert and Rafael Bañón I Martínez (comp.). *El Estado de las Autonomías: Hacia un Nuevo Federalismo?* Instituto Vasco de Administración Pública (IVAP); España, 1999, pp. 268.

Publius: *The Journal of Federalism*; Vol. 27, No.4, 1997. Special Issue on Federalism in Spain.

Moreno, Luis. *La Federalización en España: Poder Político y Territorio; Siglo XXI de España Editores*, Madrid, 1997, pp.195.

Moreno Luis. *The Federalization of Spain*; Frank Cass Publishers, Great Britain, 2001, pp. 182.

Revista Española de Ciencia Política; Vol. 1, No.1, Octubre 1999. Issue partially dedicated to state of autonomies.

After 39 years of dictatorship (1936-1975), the death of General Franco offered Spain an immense opportunity to rebuild its institutions and create a system of government where the diversity of cultures was not an impediment to the reintroduction of democracy. It is with the Constitution of 1978 that this country ended the ancient discussion about the form of State that would better ensure governance and opened the path to the creation of the State of the Autonomies. As we would expect, the significance of this type of arrangement has not escaped the analytical interest of scholars whose inquiries help to enhance the knowledge of social sciences. The establishment of autonomous governments in Spain has opened a new window to analyze how federations with these characteristics can overcome conflicts generated by competing units of government aiming to achieve enhanced political and economic power. Just as in any other nation that transits from a unitary or heavily centralized government into a more decentralized structure, Spain's process of federalization has not been exempt of tensions and disagreements. To what extent this model of government will succeed depends on several factors that deserve careful analysis. The objective of this brief essay is to introduce researchers to a set of documents that will immerse us in the thoughts of highly recognized scholars in the field of Spanish federalism and intergovernmental relations. A good starting point for those who are not familiar with the structure of the Spanish government is Michael Newton's *Institutions of Modern Spain*. This book was first published in 1987 and released again in 1997 after an exhaustive review. It includes 16 chapters describing the main government institutions and the existing mechanisms of intergovernmental cooperation. It has been written in a straightforward style, allowing readers to focus on those areas of the political system in which they are mostly interested. Each chapter also includes comments that clarify important concepts or events related to the previously developed topic.

If, on the other hand, the reader is looking for a more extensive discussion about the challenges associated to the introduction of a model of autonomous governments, the papers edited by Robert Agranoff and Rafael Bañón will be definitely thought provoking. *El Estado de las Autonomías: Hacia un nuevo federalismo?* (published in Spanish) explores intergovernmental relations in more detail, discussing the meaning and significance of those institutions created to assure governance and enhance citizens' confidence. Dan Elazar contributed to this book with a framework that is quite helpful in understanding how the Spanish model of government fits into what he calls "the new postmodern paradigm of federalism". To provide the reader with elements to assess the challenges that this model needs to surmount, John Kincaid writes about the evolution of the U.S. federalism and the historic circumstances that induced its transformation. In the following sections, readers will find insightful analyses about the evolution of the intergovernmental relations in Spain. Robert Agranoff and Juan Antonio Ramos present the basic characteristics of the State of Autonomies and explain how they have contributed to the development of the Spanish federalism. In separate chapters, Rafael Bañón, Manuel Tamayo, Joan Subirats and Ernesto Carrillo study the model of intergovernmental relations from the perspective of the three levels

of government (central, autonomous communities and local administrations), furthering our understanding of key elements of this system of governance. Among other things, researchers will be able to find illustrative comparisons between the highly centralized regime of General Franco and the decentralized arrangements achieved with the Constitution of 1978; also, there is some discussion about the potential impact of Spanish Autonomies on government legitimacy and the problems between levels of government that usually arise when policy decisions are made. The closing section includes a chapter by Llera, Montero and Pallarés dealing with the fragmentation of the party system and the appearance of nationalist and regionalist organizations. Thomas Lancaster, in a different vein, introduces us to the topic of citizens' opinions about the effectiveness of the new political institutions.

Readers who do not read Spanish can find some of the articles mentioned above in the compilation "Toward Federal Democracy in Spain" which appeared in *Publius, the Journal of Federalism* in 1997. The content of the articles is almost the same, however, there are slight differences due to updates or addition of tables.

The articles to be found in both publications are "Toward Federal Democracy in Spain" by Agranoff and Ramos Gallarín; "The Transformation of the Central Administration in Spanish Intergovernmental Relations" by Bañón and Tamayo; "Nationalism, Regionalism and State Institutions: An Assessment of Opinions in Spain" by Lancaster and "Non State-wide Parties in Spain: An Attitudinal Study of Nationalism and Regionalism" by Llera, Montero and Pallarés. *Publius* also includes a paper by Ernesto Carrillo dealing with local government and decentralization in the State of Autonomies. This article was adapted from a longer version that appeared in the Spanish edition so, whenever possible, my suggestion is to consider IVAP's publication in first place. The journal also includes an article by Luis Moreno entitled "Federalization and Ethnoterritorial Concurrence in Spain". Here, the author explains how the mobilization of ethnic groups searching for economic and political power has contributed to shape the Spanish model of federalism. The discussion stresses that this process has been influenced by the desire of regional governments to achieve legitimacy and succeed in a competitive environment in which regions and nationalities attempt to consolidate institutional development.

Those interested in gaining a deeper knowledge of this topic can benefit from Moreno's book *La Federalización en España: Poder Político y Territorio*, which is published in both Spanish and English. The latest version was released in 2001 under the title *The Federalization of Spain*. The latest release includes updated tables with recent data about Spanish Autonomies as well as a brief methodological appendix. The book is a valuable tool for a more comprehensive understanding of the Spanish system of governance because it includes a rich and well-documented theoretical background as well as a clear definition of the concepts that are used to illustrate the author's main arguments. Moreno starts by explaining the concepts and assumptions that constitute the framework for his analysis. As a next step, he includes an interesting explanation of the stages through which Spain passed as part of its process of national consolidation. All of this allows us to understand why Spain constitutes an asymmetric and plural reality composed of strong nationalisms and the way in which it has contributed to the creation of a federalizing State of the Autonomies.

The final text included in this review deserves special attention because it has become a relevant channel of academic discussion in recent years. *Revista Española de Ciencia Política* (Spanish Journal of Political Science) includes various articles related to Spanish federalism. Juan Linz writes an excellent piece linking the notion of federalism, democracy, and multinationalism. The starting point for this essay is the question that numerous scholars have tried to answer: Why federalism? For Linz, the answer lies in its capacity to unite what was previously separated. Such characteristics are what turn federalism into a feasible alternative that keeps multinational societies united. Joseph Colomer approaches the topic from an institutional perspective, highlighting the ability of federal systems to combine decentralization

with multilateral cooperation. His article focuses on a discussion of the basic features to be found in federations and concludes that a “horizontal” division of power is the best option to assure their stability. Jordi Capo Giol contributes to this edition with an article focusing on the Spanish electoral system and its relationship with governance. It is basically an analysis of the impact of such a system over minority governments whose main support comes from autonomic parties. Manuel Villoria discusses the role of the bureaucracies in the transition process and its impact on democratic consolidation. Another interesting piece is presented by Ludolfo Paramio, whose main interest is to analyze how social changes have made the process of aggregation of preferences more complex and how this has affected the level of citizens trust on politics, political parties and politicians.

Federalism comprises, by its own nature, a complex system of governance that is in constant evolution. The United States, to cite an example, is recognized as one of the pillars of federalism and democracy. Nonetheless, as suggested by John Kincaid’s essay, it has not been isolated from occasional confrontations among its constituency or tiers of government. Just as in the case of this nation, federations in the process of consolidation are expected to experience moments of cooperation, dualism, or imposition. The study of the Spanish case has a special significance. As a new federation, it will certainly be exposed to the tensions that other countries experienced in the past. The question that remains is whether Spanish institutions have the necessary strength and degree of consolidation to assure the coexistence of multiethnic nationalisms, which do not always share the same ideas and perspectives.

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Jávea Conference Papers

Committee on Federalism and Federation

This Research Committee was organized in 1983. It is devoted to exploring scholarly knowledge about federations and federal arrangements in a comparative perspective. Its members are from six continents and include political scientists, lawyers, economists, political geographers, and political sociologists from many federal and nonfederal countries. Knowledge about federalism is researched and exchanged about specific countries as well as cross-national phenomena. As an active committee, it meets virtually every year. Every third year it holds a committee conference, such as the Jávea conference, to exchange papers and to organize its work agenda. The next year it meets jointly with another organization, the International Association of Centers of Federalism (a group of research centers). The 2002 joint meeting is planned for Innsbruck, Austria in November. The third year of the cycle the Committee meets and sponsors panels as a part of the World Congress of Political Science. The August 2003 meeting is scheduled for Durban, South Africa.

Several publications have been produced as a result of these meetings, for example:

C. Lloyd Brown-John (ed.), *Centralizing and Decentralizing Trends in Federal or Non-Federal Countries* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1993).

Bertus De Villiers (ed.), *Evaluating Federal Systems* (Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1997).

Robert Agranoff (ed.), *Managing Diversity: Asymmetry in Federal Countries* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2000).