

## MAY 2008 / Vol. 21 (1)

### Advance report on the RC28 Annual Conference (Berlin)

RC28 Annual Conference, October 3-4, 2008, Berlin

Our annual conference is taking place on Friday-Saturday, October 3-4, 2008. It will be hosted by the Hertie School of Governance, located in the heart of Berlin between the Brandenburg Gate and Alexanderplatz. The conference is co-sponsored by the European Consortium for Political Research's Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism. Several workshop panels on "Balancing Federal Systems: Implications for Politics and Policy" (see call for papers below) will accompany the Business Meeting that will take place on Friday afternoon from 4-6 pm. The Business Meeting is open to all RC28 members as well as other workshop participants. The conference program is scheduled to begin on Friday, October 3, 9:30 am, and conclude on Saturday, 3 pm. The sessions are tentatively planned to take place as follow:

Friday: Session 1 from 9:30-12:30; Session 2 from 1:00-4:00

Saturday: Session 3 from 9:00-11:30; Session 4 from 12:30-3:00

A social gathering is planned following the Business Meeting on Friday evening. Refreshments will be provided throughout the event. Participants are expected to pay for their travel and lodging costs. A number of hotel rooms have been pre-booked at the Großer Kurfürst for €87 per night. Participants will be notified in early June and given further information regarding travel to Berlin and how to confirm their hotel reservation.

We are still accepting proposals. They should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than May 31st to RC28's Program Chair, Sonja Walti, American University and Hertie School of Governance, Tel. +1 202 885 3738, Fax +1 202 885 2347, [walti@american.edu](mailto:walti@american.edu). RC28 members and others interested in participating without presenting a paper should also contact Sonja Walti.

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS "BALANCING FEDERAL SYSTEMS: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICS AND POLICY"**A DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF FEDERAL SYSTEMS ACROSS THE WORLD IS THEIR EXPOSURE TO CONSTANT SHIFTS OF POWER(S) BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. INDEED, THE BALANCING AND REBALANCING OF POWER BETWEEN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND AMONG CONSTITUENT UNITS IS OFTEN THE VERY PURPOSE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND, MORE GENERALLY, MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE. SYMMETRIES AND ASYMMETRIES MAY RESULT FROM UNDERLYING TRENDS THAT TRANSFORM THE NATURE OF FEDERAL SYSTEMS OVER TIME AS WELL AS FROM CONSCIOUS REFORM EFFORTS. HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL POWER SHIFTS AFFECT POLITICS AS WELL AS POLICIES.WE ARE CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT SPEAK TO THE BALANCING AND REBALANCING OF FEDERAL SYSTEMS IN A COMPARATIVE MANNER. CONTRIBUTIONS MAY, FOR EXAMPLE, ADDRESS INSTITUTIONAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE TERRITORIAL AND NON-TERRITORIAL ACCOMMODATION OF DIVERSITY OR THE ORGANIZATION OF STATE, LOCAL, AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO INVITE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT EXAMINE HOW SHIFTS IN THE FEDERAL BALANCE OF POWER AFFECT THE WAY ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES ARE SOLVED AND PARTICULAR

POLICY PROBLEMS ARE ADDRESSED. WE HOPE TO DISCUSS THE THEMES OUTLINED IN FOUR SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS: CONCEPTUAL ISSUES OF FEDERALISM AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE (SESSION 1) ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES IN MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (SESSION 2) NON-TERRITORIAL ACCOMMODATION OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND LINGUISTIC RIFTS (SESSION 3) POLICY CHALLENGES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (SESSION 4) CO-SPONSOR: ECPR- FEDERALISM AND REGIONALISM: [WWW.ESSEX.AC.UK/ECPR/STANDINGGROUPS/REGIONALISM/INDEX.ASPX](http://WWW.ESSEX.AC.UK/ECPR/STANDINGGROUPS/REGIONALISM/INDEX.ASPX) HOST: HERTIE SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE: [WWW.HERTIE-SCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.HERTIE-SCHOOL.ORG)

## **Report on Kingston Conference, October 2007**

Report on Kingston Conference, October 18-21, 2007  
Michael Stein

1) The Kingston RC 28 Business Meeting (including a Financial Statement and a Report on Future RC Conferences)

I chaired our RC 28 annual Business Meeting, held on October 18, 2007 at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. There were 8 RC 28 members present. The Agenda contained 8 items, of which the following two are of greatest interest to our Newsletter readers:

i) RC Financial Report for the period July 9, 2006 to October 18, 2007:

The Chair reported that the Total Income of the RC was \$3,704.68 (CDN), including members dues, carryover funds, and an IPSA Secretariat cheque for the upgrade of its website. Total Expenses amounted to \$724.21, including payment for computer support for website construction and upgrade, \$470.21 for the work of the Chair's Assistant, and \$ 39.60 for Miscellaneous Expenses. This left an overall balance of \$2,952.47 in the RC 28 chequing/savings account at that point in time.

ii) Current and Future Conferences:

A report on current and future RC 28 conferences and workshops was presented, and included the following:

Institute of Intergovernmental Relations (IIGR) Conference in Kingston, Canada, October 18-20, 2007;

Forum of Federations/ Government of India Conference in New Delhi, India, November 5-7, 2007;

IPSA Inter-Congress Conference in Montreal, Canada, April 30 –May 2, 2008;  
IPSA RC 28 Conference and Business Meeting, Berlin, Germany, October 3-4, 2008;  
IPSA World Congress, Santiago, Chile, July 12-16, 2009.

More detailed reports on these conferences will be provided in this Newsletter below.

2) The Panels and Other Aspects of the Kingston Conference:

The Kingston Conference was organized and hosted by the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. It was held in honour of Ronald Watts, one of our most illustrious international scholars in the study of federalism. He is a former Principal of Queen's University, a former President of the International Association of Centers of Federal Studies (IACFS), and a long-time and current member of IPSA Research Committee 28. The Chair and chief organizer of the conference was Tom Courchene, a distinguished Canadian economist and Director of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University.

The theme of the conference was "The Idea of Federalism". There were no fewer than 8 paper-givers and 4 chairs for the 12 sessions of the Conference who are members of our RC 28. There were 6 sessions on Comparative Federalism, held on Friday, October 19, and 6 on Canadian Federalism, held on Saturday, October 20th. A copy of the programme, detailing the titles, presenters and chairs for these sessions can be accessed and downloaded from the Institute website at <http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Watts/program.pdf>.

The Conference sessions included some of the world's leading experts on Comparative and Canadian Federalism, and they were extremely stimulating and well attended. A number of the texts of papers presented at this conference (12 in all) are still available on the website of the Institute at <http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Watts/papers.html>. You may also be able to obtain hard copies of other papers from the Secretary and Publications Coordinator of the Institute, Mary Kennedy, at [iigr@queens.ca](mailto:iigr@queens.ca).

### 3) The Kingston Meeting on the Federalism Databank Project, October 18, 2007:

This meeting was convened to enable the major RC promoters of this project (Uwe Leonardy and Gisela Farber, both of Germany) to discuss its progress and potential funding with interested individuals from the Privy Council Office in Ottawa, Canada (David Peloquin and Marc Desjardins) and a Research Associate and representative of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations in Kingston who is also a member of our RC (Christian Leuprecht). The meeting opened with a summary provided by Uwe Leonardy of the historical background and rationale of the project, including the need for statistical databanks for both practitioners and scholars of federalism, particularly at the sub-national level. Although acknowledging the primary need for a fiscal federal databank, Uwe also explained why such a databank would also require the eventual development of a related constitutional/institutional databank.

Gisela Farber then explained that although the OECD has fiscal data of this sort, it lacks related institutional data, and only OECD countries are included in its reports. Therefore there is a need for international institutes of federalism to collect these data independently. However, she has found that it is difficult for such institutes to obtain financial assistance from German funding agencies or government bodies. Therefore she proposed that we turn to Canadian funding agencies such as the SSHRC for this purpose. She also suggested that such funding be initially limited to requesting financial assistance for the holding of a preliminary workshop consisting of core representatives of academic centers of federal studies associated with the IACFS. The workshop would be designed to devise a detailed framework for the databank project.

David Peloquin, one of the two PCO federalism experts at the meeting, noted that the costs of maintaining a fiscal federal data base are extremely high, and therefore he recommended that we first approach a funding body with greater resources than the SSHRC, such as the IMF. He thought that the IMF might be interested in funding a comparative study of fiscal disparities between constituent units and regions of federations, particularly in a core group of federal countries such as Canada, Australia and Germany. But Marc Desjardins pointed out that the SSHRC provides special grants to research institutes and scholars for studies of

international development up to \$40,000 [recently increased to \$70,000]. Therefore Christian Leuprecht of the IIGR and Michael Stein agreed to explore the possibility of receiving such funding from the SSHRC after appropriate revisions of the project plan (initially drafted in the spring of 2007) have been made by Gisela Farber and her institute assistant.

### **Report on New Delhi Conference, November 2007**

Michael Stein

The 4th International Conference on Federalism was held on November 5-7, 2007 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India. It was organized and funded by the Government of India in conjunction with the international Forum of Federations. Its theme was "Unity in Diversity: Learning from Each Other". There were over 1000 delegates selected to participate in the conference, including both practitioners and scholars of federalism drawn from many different federations or partial federations such as Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, and the USA.

On the first day of the conference the programme consisted of an Inaugural Plenary Session, an Introduction to the Conference Themes, and Keynote Addresses. On the second and third days, there were 24 Work Sessions of about 50 delegates, grouped under 4 main themes involving the practice of federalism in different countries. The four themes were 1) Building and Accommodating Diversity, 2) Fiscal Federalism, 3) Interaction in a Federal System and 4) Local Government in Federal Systems. Each theme was addressed under different topics in 3 Work Sessions per day. On the last day, there were also four Dialogue Tables organized, each covering one of the conference themes. The Work Sessions were particularly stimulating, and included well-defined, specific and controversial subjects of discussion that allowed all session members to participate. Indian federalism public service practitioners and academics were well-represented and active in these sessions, and Indian government representatives were also prominent at the conference, particularly in their roles as gracious and generous hosts. There were 8 members of RC 28 serving as conference delegates.

Among the Work Session topics that were debated at the conference were several that have been of great interest to the members of our Research Committee in past meetings, including "how do institutional arrangements for diversity evolve over time in established federations?", "how important is language policy as a tool of conflict resolution in federal systems?", and "how is governance and service delivery organized in the mega-cities of federations?" The broad and diverse international and professional representation made it possible for the delegates to consider these topics from many different perspectives, including those of country, region, ideology and class. This also ensured that a valuable exchange of views was promoted, with positive benefits for representatives of each of the federations and partial federations in attendance.

### **Report on IPSA-Montreal Conference, April 30-May 2, 2008**

The first mid-term World Conference of the International Political Science Association was held from April 30, 2008 to May 2, 2008 at Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The theme of this Conference was "International Political Science: New Theoretical and Regional Perspectives". It was initiated, organized and co-chaired by Dirk Berg-Schlosser, IPSA Vice-President and Chair of its sub-Committee on Research and Training, and Rainer Eisfeld, IPSA RC Liaison Representative, and administratively coordinated by Isabel Brinck of the IPSA Secretariat. There were over 100 conference participants, including about 50 representatives of Research Committees, 40 representatives of national political science

associations, 15 elected members of the IPSA national executive, and 6 other holders of IPSA executive positions. They came from no less than 21 different countries on 6 continents or subcontinents. The aim of the conference was to enhance cooperation between two major sections of IPSA, the Research Committees (RCs) and the National Political Science Associations, to encourage the creation of mutually beneficial networks, and to lay the groundwork for future joint regional conferences and world congress panels. There were two representatives of IPSA RC 28, Michael Stein and Sonja Walti, each of whom had agreed to present a paper on an aspect of the topic "The Concept of Multi-level Governance in Studies of Federalism" (the former in collaboration with Lisa Turkewitsch, a PhD student at the University of Toronto).

On the first day of the conference the programme included 2 parallel panels on the Epistemological Foundations/Methodology and Political Theory subfields, and on the Political Sociology and Governance and Public Policies sub-fields. They focused on the State of Affairs and Conflicting Perspectives in those areas. Later there was also a summary report on the progress of the IPSA Political Science journal, the International Political Science Review (IPSR), and a presentation by John Trent, the current Chair of RC 33, on "Issues in Political Science: Perspectives from the World of Political Science Book Series". There was also a Working Luncheon that included a discussion among RC and National Political Science Association delegates on "Building Linkages and Teaming Up in Joint Projects", encompassing both these groups.

On the second day of the conference parallel panels were held on the State of Affairs and Conflicting Perspectives in two other sub-fields of Political Science, Comparative Politics and International Relations. There were also parallel panels on the State of the Discipline in Major Regions of the World (Asia and the Pacific/Africa, Latin America/North America, Europe (I) and Europe (II)). A second Working Luncheon was held to discuss different aspects of the Santiago IPSA World Congress in July 2009.

On the third and final day of the Conference there were parallel panels on "Cutting-Edge Areas of Research in Political Science Subfields", including International Politics and Globalization; Political Sociology and Political Socialization; Electoral Politics and Political Financing; Levels of Governance and Public Policies; Welfare States and Health Care; and Civil-Military Relations, Terrorism and the Protection of Human Rights. They were followed by a plenary session in which reports on the panels were presented by the chairs/rapporteurs from the 3 conference sections. There was also a concluding lecture by former IPSA President Theodore J. (Ted) Lowi.

The discussion in the sessions reflected the wide diversity of views within the discipline in terms of epistemology, methodology and priority areas and topics of political science research. The panels included from 3 to a maximum of 8 paper-givers and presenters of Statements. This often permitted no more than 10-15 minutes for each paper presentation, and only about 20-25 minutes for general audience discussion. Although there was insufficient time for an in-depth consideration and critique of these presentations, it did enable the conference organizers to allow all of the conference delegates to participate in the program in some way. The Conference also was an important first step in realizing the overall objectives of these organizers and the IPSA Executive of fostering closer relations and network ties between the RCs and the National Political Science Associations. Several sessions in this conference will be carried over to the Santiago World Congress in July 2009. There appeared to be a consensus at the conclusion that this first effort of IPSA to hold a mid-term Conference was a notable overall success.

## **RC28 Advance Call for Papers for Santiago World Congress (July 2009)**

Things are getting underway for the next IPSA World Congress, to be held in Santiago, Chile, July 12-16, 2009. Its theme is "Global Discontent? Dilemmas of Change". Here is what all RC28 members interested in participating need to know: As in the past, the congress program will be composed of parallel panel sessions emanating from the RCs as well as from individual members. Every RC is called to organize between two and four panels. The up to four panels we submit as RC28 are guaranteed, and non-RC members proposing topics related to federalism will be encouraged to apply to our panels. However, interested participants, both RC and non-RC members, may also suggest papers and panels via IPSA's open and competitive call for papers, which will run until November 1, 2008. More information can be found at the congress website <http://www.santiago2009.org>.

The RC28 executive will use a two-step iterative process to fully utilize our panel potential and to accommodate the diverse interests in our research committee. First, we have defined a set of general panel topics for your consideration. Second, we will then fine-tune the topics based on the interests expressed.

### **CALL FOR PAPER FOR RC28 PANELS** THE RC28 EXECUTIVE SUGGESTS SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING FOUR PANELS:

■ PANEL 1: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE TO STUDIES OF FEDERALISM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

■ PANEL 2: THE ORGANIZATION OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE INSTITUTIONS IN FEDERAL COUNTRIES.

■ PANEL 3: THE TERRITORIAL STRUCTURES OF FEDERATIONS AND CHANGES IN THEM.

■ PANEL 4: PUBLIC POLICY INNOVATION AT THE NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS IN UNITARY SYSTEMS AND FEDERATIONS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING A PAPER TO ANY OF THESE PANELS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PROGRAM CHAIR WITH A TITLE, A BRIEF ABSTRACT, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, AFFILIATION, AND CONTACT INFORMATION. IF YOU WOULD INSTEAD LIKE TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE PANEL PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED BY RC28 ON YOUR BEHALF, PLEASE PROVIDE OUR PROGRAM CHAIR WITH YOUR PANEL SUGGESTION, INCLUDING PANEL TITLE, THE NAMES OF A CHAIR, AND AT LEAST TWO PAPERS (INCLUDING TITLES AND THE AUTHORS' NAME, AFFILIATION, AND CONTACT INFORMATION).

Contact Sonja Walti ([walti@american.edu](mailto:walti@american.edu)) as soon as possible, but not later than July 15, 2008.

We will notify applicants soon thereafter as to whether or not their RC28 proposal has been accepted, and submit a definitive list of panels to the World Congress organizing committee at that point. Please note that, regardless of the path by which your paper enters the IPSA World Congress' program, you will (also) need to submit your paper proposal via the congress website ([www.santiago2009.org](http://www.santiago2009.org)) by November 1, 2008. You will have an opportunity at that

time to indicate that your paper has already been accepted as part of an RC28 panel. You will then also need to register for the Congress via the official website.

### **Liaison with the Forum of Federations, May 2007-April 2008**

In May 2007 Gisela Farber, Head of the RC 28 Federalism Databank Project, completed a draft Project description, as requested by the Forum of Federations (FF). The purpose of her Draft was to help the FF decide whether it should co-sponsor the project with RC 28. In the Draft Gisela explained that the major purpose of a Databank is the establishment of an interdisciplinary database that provides a system of coherent information on federal systems. The Draft consisted of 5 sections: I. Main Features of a Federalism Databank in the Fiscal Area, II. Main Features of a Federalism Databank in the Constitutional Area, III. Institutional Design of a Federalism Databank Project in Both Areas, IV. Financing and V. Cost Calculation. The draft was a revised version of an earlier project description that did not include the cost calculation.

The Draft was forwarded by Uwe Leonardy, our First Vice President and chief liaison with the Forum, to his FF counterpart, David MacDonald, on 18 May 2007, along with the introduction and some essential contents of a former South African constitutional database. He requested that a preliminary evaluation of this draft and the project be made by the Forum executive prior to a planned joint meeting of representatives of the FF and of RC 28 in Kingston, just before the start of the Conference on October 18, 2007. The intention of this preliminary evaluation was to help guide RC 28, in conjunction with Queen's University's Institute of Intergovernmental Relations (IIGR), in its planned application to the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The application would be submitted to the SSHRC International Opportunity Fund (IOF) program, which is designed to help researchers "develop, participate in and lead various international collaborative research activities". The hope was that a SSHRC grant would subsidize a preliminary planning workshop for the database project comprised of representatives of major institutional affiliates of the International Association of Centers of Federal Studies (IACFS).

In two letters of response sent by David MacDonald to Uwe in June and July 2007, he explained that the FF staff had approached some governmental and non-governmental federal practitioners for their advice on the feasibility of the project. He noted that "although the Forum [was] prepared to support an eventual proposal that [our RC 28 and the Kingston IIGR was planning] to make to funders", it was not able to play a primary role in such a funding application. He also indicated that on the basis of the FF inquiries with knowledgeable Canadian government officials and with the OECD in Europe, it had several reservations about the project. These included 1) There appears not to be much appetite for a constitutional data base, 2) The high cost of such databases is an issue, 3) Although a fiscal data base seems more relevant to practitioners of federalism, the OECD informed the FF representatives that they have "enormous difficulties in obtaining relevant statistics even from member countries" of that organization.

These concerns of the FF have inhibited our RC representatives in their efforts to advance the project. We did meet at Kingston with the two Canadian government PCO officials who had been consulted by the FF about the project (See the summary in this Newsletter of this meeting). Subsequently we also obtained more detailed information about the SSHRC grant application requirements for international projects of this sort. However, we are still awaiting further revisions in the Draft proposal that was resubmitted to the FF, the IACFS, the IIGR and our RC 28 by Gisela Farber in April 2008.

There was one other initiative taken by our RC to establish closer Internet links with the FF in July 2007. Michael Stein e-mailed Rod MacDonnell, the chief FF Publications officer and

Senior Editor of its Federations news magazine, proposing that our respective webmasters establish internet links and implement other joint communication measures that we had discussed at our Ottawa meeting in January 2007. They included exchange of biographical information based on the questionnaire circulated to our RC members for the Directory of Federalism Experts and information on new and recent academic publications in the field of comparative federalism. These initiatives, apart from the establishment of the Internet link between our websites, have yet to be fully implemented.

## **Membership Fees**

Dear RC 28 Members,

We would like to express our gratitude to all of our Members who actively support RC 28 activities. As you know, the payment of Membership fees is a crucial financial source for the Research Committee and its ability to carry out all of its regular activities. However, we note with some apprehension the failure of most of our RC 28 members thus far to meet their obligation and pay their 3-year membership fee to the IPSA RC 28 Executive Committee and its aides. This amounts to only US \$45, or \$15 annually.

As you know, RC 28 on Comparative Federalism and Federations is the only genuinely international academic network that supports research on comparative federalism. It provides up-to-date information about recent federalism studies (including both books and articles of international interest and significance). It mounts a website that contains a bi-annual Newsletter; the Newsletter includes reports on past conferences and calls for papers for coming annual conferences and workshops on different aspects of federalism. It holds an annual Business Meeting in conjunction with these conferences to discuss its current and future activities related to comparative federalism. It sponsors and organizes 2-4 panels on different federalism topics for the triennial IPSA World Congress, which meets in a different city on one of the world's continents every three years and generally attracts about 2500 international political scientists. It prepares and submits grant requests to the IPSA Executive and its Committee on Research and Training for such items as financial assistance for its website maintenance and for the cost of editing manuscripts by non-English- and non-French-speaking members. These are only a few examples of its many and varied activities on behalf of comparative federalism.

We were informed some time ago that the RC 28 members from outside North America, who constitute the overwhelming majority of our members, find it difficult or impossible to pay their membership fees by means of bank cheques or money orders. Therefore, as we communicated to you a few months ago in an email sent to all our members, we have now arranged for submission of membership fees by a method of credit card bank payment called "Paypal". This method was described in considerable detail in the email letter we sent you announcing its availability, and it is also explained in another part of this Newsletter (see Changes to our Website, below). Unfortunately, since the advertisement of this new and convenient method of payment, only a few additional membership fees have been paid in this way. As a result, to date only slightly more than 20% of those on our membership list of over 100 members have paid their full 3-year fee for the 2006-2009 period.

We are therefore requesting of those who have not yet paid their membership fees, in light of the preceding information, that you submit to us in the very near future by Paypal, money order or cheque the amount of US \$45. This can be sent either by using the Paypal method or by mailing your cheque or money order to us at the address indicated in the Newsletter. Your continued failure to pay for the membership benefits that have been described above may leave us no choice other than to take more drastic action in the future, such as

cancellation of the membership privileges of delinquent members. We would therefore be very grateful for your prompt action in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Michael Stein  
Chair, RC 28, 2006-2009

Sebastian Baglioni  
Assistant to the Chair of RC 28

### **Changes to the RC28 Website**

We are pleased to announce that we have incorporated some important changes into our website. These changes are part of our effort to both better communicate with our Members and offer a wider range of services. They include:

**Federalism Experts:** We have asked our Members in the past to fill in a form with their contact information, professional affiliations and activities, research projects and publications. Our intention is to compile the forms into a Directory of Federalism Experts, which will provide valuable information about scholars working in this area.

The form is available on our website. Members can download it from there, fill it in and submit it to the RC28 Chair Assistant, Sebastian Baglioni ([sebastian.baglioni@utoronto.ca](mailto:sebastian.baglioni@utoronto.ca)).

**Members' email addresses:** There is a new section on our website containing our Members' email addresses. This is in line with our idea of bringing scholars around the world together to work on federalism.

**Publications:** We have created a new section on our website dedicated to significant new publications in the area of federalism, emphasizing edited volumes, books and chapters from our Members and from other scholars who are not RC28 Members.

**Membership Fees Payment:** We remind our Members that RC28 Membership Fees can be paid electronically via the Paypal System. In order to do so, Members should log into our website and look for the Paypal link, located on the bottom of the home page. From there, simple instructions follow.

We hope all these changes will help provide our Members with a friendlier and more efficient website to communicate with other Members and participate in our Research Committee.

### **2008 By-laws Announcement**

We inform our Members that RC28 Executive Officials are in the process of changing the by-laws that regulate the election of the RC Executive. The changes will include new procedures to participate in the election via email, which are consistent with the new rules as defined by the IPSA Executive. In addition, some items in the old by-laws –which are currently obsolete–, will be also deleted. These changes will be included in our next Newsletter. If any RC28 Member is interested in this process or wishes to add further changes, please contact Uwe Leonardy ([uwe.leonardy@web.de](mailto:uwe.leonardy@web.de)) or Bertus De Villiers ([bertus.devilliers@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:bertus.devilliers@justice.wa.gov.au))