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Sao Paulo, IPSA Conference (February 2011)

The first Joint conference organised by the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) explores the theme "Whatever Happened to North-South?". It will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil on February 16-19, 2011.

The conference will explore the continuing relevance of the international North-South divide, and it will be organised into three broad Themes:

Theme 1: Changing patterns of IR/Regional Integration

Theme 2: Political regimes, democratic consolidation and the quality of democracy

Theme 3: Economic trends and political, social and cultural changes

Among the numerous proposed panels of the conference, there are several of special interest to RC28 Members, dealing with issues of multilevel governance, federalism, or decentralization:

- Multi-level governance and regional integration worldwide: the parliamentary dimension
- The stability of financial markets as a global public good
- Latin America and Europe in perspective: processes of regional integration in times of crisis
- Competing model of regional integration? Latin America in comparative perspective– Representational roles in multi-layered democracies
- Collective political actors in multi-level political systems and the quality of democracy
- The effects of decentralization on the democratic process
- Multilevel political regimes and prospects for gender positive democracies
- Local elections: democratization from below?

For general information about the conference, please check its website:

<http://saopaulo2011.ipsa.org>. The full program of the conference will be posted on its website by late October, 2010.

For questions, please contact the organizers or our RC28 program chair, Sonja Walti (walti@american.edu).

Reykjavik, ECPR Conference (August 2011)

The European Consortium for Political Research is organising its Sixth General conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, on August 25-27 2011.

The academic programme will be organised in the format of sections and panels, each section containing between 3 and 10 panels. There will also be an 'open' section, consisting of stand-alone panels that do not fit neatly into any of the listed sections. Panel sessions are scheduled to last one hour and forty minutes and include a chair person, discussant and up to five paper givers.

The programme will be very broad, with more than 50 sections covering all the main areas of political science, political theory, international relations and European studies.

To see the list of all (60) Sections accepted for this Conference, visit the ECPR's website: http://www.ecprnet.eu/conferences/general_conference/Reykjavik/sections.asp. Among these sections, several of them touch upon relevant aspects of federalism including multilevel and regional politics, local governance and politics, and executive politics in multilevel contexts.

We strongly encourage our members to participate by submitting panels and/or a proposal for this Conference.

There will be a three-stage selection process for the academic programme: first a call for sections (deadline 15 April 2010), followed by a call for panels (deadline 1 September 2010) and finally a call for papers (deadline 1 February 2011).

For more information, please check the ECPR website (<http://www.ecprnet.eu>)

Edinburgh, ECPR Summer School (August 2010)

The European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism has recently organised the Summer School on Federalism, Regionalism and Public Policy. It took place at the University of Edinburgh, School of Social and Political Science, from August 20 to August 28, 2010.

The theme of the Summer School included the politics of territorial governance in Europe and the ways in which it has seen tremendous shifts in many European and also a number of non-European countries over the last 20 years or so. While some changes in the constitutional, institutional and procedural means of authoritative decision-making in European governmental systems can directly or indirectly be attributed to European integration and the evolution of the EU, developments at sub-national levels have generally been more diverse and, to some extent, disintegrative.

Within this broader theme, the summer school session of 2010 paid specific attention to public policy. How should we analyse public policy in multi-level settings? How do policy communities and interest groups operate in a multi-level environment? How does multi-level governance affect the legitimacy of public policy? To what extent does territorial politics produce policy divergence and does policy divergence undermine common understandings of citizenship? How do governments coordinate with each other on public policy? To what extent does territorial politics lead to policy innovation, diffusion or emulation and when does it spark a race to the top or to the bottom? Does multi-level governance affect policies that are mainly regulatory (such as environmental policy) differently from policies that are predominantly redistributive (welfare and finance) or distributive (education)? How does territorial politics affect potentially divisive policies such as immigrant policy? Finally, how should we understand policy in the context of a more Europeanized and globalized world?

For more information about the Summer School, please visit the ECPR's website: http://www.ecprnet.eu/summerschools/documents/Fed_Reg_SS_Prog_2010.pdf

Kingston, QIISP Summer Conference (August 2010)

The Queen's International Institute on Social Policy recently organised the Conference entitled "Recovering Together? Fiscal Pressures, Federalism and Social Policy". The conference took place at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, 16-18 August 2010.

The theme of the conference focused on the recovery of the Canadian economy and the context for social policy development, powerfully shaped both by fiscal pressures and by intergovernmental relations. In this context, fiscal pressures grow more intense. On one side, income support programs bear a heavy burden during a slow return to pre-recession employment levels, and long-standing pressures on health care and educational programs continue to grow. On the other side, governments seek to unwind the levels of spending associated with the stimulus.

Managing these fiscal pressures strain intergovernmental relations, which have always been central to social policy. Many programs are framed and financed through intergovernmental agreements, and coordination is a constant challenge where governments operate separate programs in the same sector. In recent years municipal governments have also come to play a bigger role. Multilevel governance will be central to the recovery, and debate over the issues involved will build as we approach the renewal of important federal-provincial fiscal agreements in 2014.

The conference included the following panel discussions: Overview: Multilevel Incidence of Fiscal Pressures in OECD countries; Federalism and Income Support; Federalism and Health Care; Federalism and Investing in Human Capital; Federalism, Immigrants and Immigrant Integration; and Federalism and Aboriginal Peoples.

For more information, including copies of the available conference Power Point presentations and the conference program, please visit the QIISP's website:
<http://www.queensu.ca/sps/events/qiisp/2010/>

Madrid, IPSA 22nd World Congress of Political Science (July 2012)

2010 Recruitment Committee

Our Recruitment Committee Chair Rekha Saxena has been actively extending invitations to potential new members of our Research Committee. On their part, RC28 Chair Michael Stein and his Assistant Sebastian Baglioni have also been working on the expansion of the membership of RC28 by sending invitations to scholars working on federalism around the world.

We are happy to announce that we have received positive responses from a number of academics whose research is related to federalism and who have expressed an interest in becoming new members of RC28. Our Research Committee is benefiting both from the diversity of research represented among its members and the wide range of their countries of origin.

We welcome all the new members and invite the long-standing ones to continue working for the strengthening of RC28 as a lively academic community engaged in current debates, publications, conferences and news relevant to federalism.

RC28 Business Meeting

MINUTES of the BUSINESS MEETING

RC 28: The Research Committee on Comparative Federalism and Federations, International Political Science Association

Date: September 17, 2010

Location: Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center
The State University of New Jersey, Rutgers, Camden Campus

Conference Context: "Federalism and the Global Financial Crisis: Impacts and Responses."
A Joint Conference of RC-28 and the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies.
Hosted by The Center for State Constitutional Studies of Rutgers University-Camden and the
Center for Study of Federalism at the Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of
State and Local Government at Lafayette College.

Members Present:

Sonja Walti, American University, US, walti@american.edu
Wolfgang Renzsch, University of Magdeburg, Germany, renzsch@ovgu.de
Bob Williams, Rutgers Law School, US, rhw@camden.rutgers.edu
Tom Lancaster, Emory University, US, polstdl@emory.edu
John Kincaid, Lafayette College, US, meynerc@lafayette.edu
Gisela Faerber, DHV Speyer, Germany, faerber@dhv-speyer.de
Ronald Watts, Queen's University, Canada, rlw@queensu.ca
Doug Brown, St. Francis Xavier University, dbrown@stfx.ca
Elizabeth Alber, ealber@eurac.edu
Alice Valdesalici, alice.valdesalici@eurac.edu
J. Isawa Elaigwu, elaigwu2033@yahoo.com

Agenda Items

1. Opening: Sonja Walti, serving as substitute chair for Michael Stein, called the meeting to order at 1:13 P.M.
2. Financial Report given by Wolfgang Renzsch.
Total Expenditures: July 7, 2009-September 1, 2010: CDN \$833.40
Revenues: July 2009-September 2010: CDN \$841.60
Current Balance: CDN \$1021.85
Discussion: RC-28's account is low, doesn't receive money from IPSA, low membership, and need to have members pay.
Decision Taken: RC 28 members voted in favour of adopting a more pro-active policy that will remind members that their dues have lapsed (e.g. by sending them personalized individualized letters). They also voted in favour of creating a reasonable "life-time membership" fee, based on "best practices" experiences in other academic associations such as the American Political Science Association.
RC-28's Executive Committee was charged with fine tuning and implementing this new policy. Approved by a unanimous vote.
3. Recruitment of New Members: Discussion
 - a. Don't need to be an IPSA member to join RC 28.
 - b. Discussion and approval of "Student Memberships" at \$30 for three years rather than the regular membership of \$45 for three years.
4. Discussion: Conferences (RC 28 Participation and Business Meetings)
 - a. Past Conferences: Berlin, Germany (2008), Santiago, Chile (2009).
 - b. Proposed Schedule, Future Conferences: RC-28 Business Meetings to be held
August, 2011: Reykjavik, Iceland, ECPR.
July 2012: Madrid, Spain, IPSA World Congress
2013: New Delhi, India
2014: Joint Conference with IACFS (in 2013 if New Delhi can't be realized.)
General discussion about format of conferences, specifically those with IACFS. In terms of timing, ideally to be held once every three years. Regarding format, current joint conference in Philadelphia considered a good model.

- c. Other conferences announced, in which RC-28 members encouraged to participate: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5th triennial international conference on federalism, December 16-18, 2010; Sao Paulo, Brazil IPSA Conference with the ECPR, February 16-19, 2011.
5. Discussion: Publications and Publication Outlets
 - a. Plan for past and future conferences? General consensus to approach case-by-case, with encouragement for the local organizer.
 - b. Discussion of "working paper model" for RC-28 website.
6. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Thomas D. Lancaster
Emory University
October 7, 2010

New Publication

We are delighted to announce the upcoming publication by Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, Cheltenham, UK, 2010 of the *Handbook on Multi-level Governance*, edited by Henrik Enderlein (Hertie School of Governance), Sonja Wälti (American University), and Michael Zürn (Social Science Research Center Berlin and Free University of Berlin).

Scholarship on multi-level governance has developed into one of the most innovative themes of research on political science and public policy. This accessible Handbook presents a thorough review of the wide-ranging literature, encompassing various theoretical and conceptual approaches to multi-level governance and their application to policy-making in domestic, regional and global contexts.

The importance of multi-level governance in specific policy areas is highlighted, and the contributors, an international group of highly renowned scholars, report on the ways in which their fields of specialization are or may be affected by the concept of multi-level governance and how later developments could affect its continued conceptualization. European integration is considered from its unique standpoint as the key catalyst in the development of multi-level governance approaches. The use and application of the multi-level governance concept in other parts of the world, both domestically and regionally, is also considered in detail, prior to a shift in focus towards global governance. The Handbook concludes with a presentation of six policy fields and instruments affected by multi-level governance, including: social policy, environmental policy, economic policy, international taxation, standard-setting, and policing.

This comprehensive Handbook takes stock of the vast range of multi-level governance theory and research studies developed in subfields of political science and public policy, and as such will provide an invaluable reference tool for scholars, researchers, and students with a special interest in public policy, regulation and governance.

For a complete list of contributors and the table of contents please visit the publisher's website: <http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry>