

## JUNE 2012 / Vol. 25 (1)

### Words from Michael Stein at the end of his tenure as Chair of RC28



June 2012 marks my last month in office, and also the last issue of the IPSA RC 28 Newsletter published during my tenure. I want to say a few last words here in summary of the achievements of RC 28 over the past 6-year period, and offer some ideas about future directions for our Research Committee.

When I was first elected Chair in August 2006 our Research Committee had fewer than 30 paid-up members, mostly from North America and Europe. We now count over 50 such members, and several pending memberships, including many new members from Asia, Africa and Latin America. This reflects, in my view, a growing global interest among political scientists in studies of comparative federalism. This development can also be credited to the increase among world countries in adopting new regimes that may be categorized as federal, quasi-federal or multilevel in form, including Belgium, Spain, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, the United Kingdom (since the 1998 devolution) and the European Union (since the Maastricht Treaty in 1991). Finally, our surging membership is the result of the strong efforts at membership recruitment made by our Recruitment Chair Rekha Saxena, aided by the Assistant to the Chair Sebastian Baglioni. The increased revenue from these membership recruitment efforts has helped finance many of the expanded activities of our RC. I hope that the members of RC28 will continue their efforts to secure wide support for RC 28 activities.

A second major achievement of RC 28 in recent years has been the large number of international conferences it sponsored, organized and participated in since 2006. These include: 1) a conference and RC Business Meeting in October 2007 in Kingston, Canada, organized by the Institute of Intergovernmental Affairs of Queen's University, and co-sponsored by our Research Committee and the International Association of Institutes of Federal Studies (IACFS). It was held in honour of one of our most distinguished comparative federalism scholars (and a longstanding RC 28 member) Ronald L. Watts, on the theme "The Federal Idea". No fewer than 16 of our members participated in some manner in this conference, and contributed to the recent Festschrift of the same title and content co-edited by Thomas Courchene, and published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2011. Other conferences and Business Meetings that followed annually, included: 2) the meeting organized and chaired by Program Chair Sonja Walti, at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, Germany in October 2008. It brought together about a dozen RC 28 members and an equal number of members from ECPR Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism, who presented papers on the theme "Balancing and Rebalancing of Federal and Multilevel Systems"; 3) four RC 28 conference panels and our 2009 Business Meeting held in July 2009 at IPSA's World Congress in Santiago, Chile, on various topics of federalism, regionalism and multilevel governance, organized by Sonja Walti; 4) an IPSA conference in Luxembourg in March 2010, co-organized with the University of Luxembourg, and including about 10 papers

by RC 28 members on the topic “Is there a European Model of Governance?”; 5) a joint conference co-sponsored and co-organized with the International Association of Centers of Federal Studies (IACFS), held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey co-hosted by the Center for the Study of Federalism at the Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government at Lafayette College in September 2010, organized by longstanding RC 28 members John Kincaid and Alan Tarr, on the topic “Federalism and the Global Financial Crisis”. It included approximately 25 papers, about half of which were presented by members of RC 28. Sonja Walti served as the organizing representative of RC 28; 6) An RC 28 panel session that included five papers presented by RC 28 members, held under the umbrella of the 6th General Conference of the ECPR in Reykjavik, Iceland in August, 2011, followed by a Business Meeting. It was co-organized by Tom Lancaster and Sonja Walti on the topic “Balancing and Rebalancing of Federal Systems”; finally 7) there will be no fewer than 10 RC 28 panels established at the coming 22nd IPSA World Congress in Madrid, Spain in July, 2012, again bringing our members together for our annual Business Meeting. The panels, some of which are co-hosted with other RCs, will address various topics on decentralization, comparative local government, local-global relations and multilevel governance under the general Congress theme “Reshaping Power, Shifting Boundaries”. It was once again organized by our extremely able and energetic Conference Chair and RC 28 First Vice-Chair Sonja Walti.

Many of these conference papers have subsequently been published in journals, and edited volumes on global and comparative federalism. These include the forthcoming papers from the Philadelphia IACFS-IPSA/RC28 meeting which Oxford University Press has agreed to publish as a volume edited by John Kincaid, Alan Tarr, and Sonja Walti, entitled *Federalism and the Global Financial Crisis: Impacts and Responses*, and a volume on *Varieties of Federal Governance: Major Contemporary Models* (2011), edited by Rekha Saxena and published by Foundation Books. There are several other edited and co-authored books on Federalism and Multilevel Governance currently in preparation by RC members.

A third major achievement of RC 28 over the last 6 years has been the establishment and regular maintenance of an attractive website, which contains valuable information about comparative federalism topics. In addition, RC 28’s Newsletter has regularly alerted members and the wider public to activities within and related to our Research Committee.

Finally, RC 28 has tried to promote a broadening of the concept of comparative federalism to include new disciplinary concepts and trends such as regionalism, decentralization, local government and multilevel governance. This reflects its efforts through its conferences and publications to extend its reach beyond the United States and Europe to new or emerging federations of the third world, where interest in federal regime forms is clearly expanding, as mentioned above. I hope that the newly elected Recruitment Chair will also attempt to recruit new members to RC 28 from the growing number of younger scholars of comparative federalism in these countries, thereby ensuring cooperation and continuity between older and younger students of this area of specialization in political science. I also hope that the incoming chair and executive board will expand its collaboration with our current partners and other international organizations specializing in federalism, including the Forum of Federations, the International Association of Centers of Federal Studies (the IACFS), the section on Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism of the European Centre on Political Relations (ECPR), and the Centre for Multilevel Federalism in India. The close and cooperative relationship that we have established with the International Political Science Association, its Committee on Research and Training, and its Secretariat should also be maintained and strengthened. In that way, we can ensure that IPSA RC 28 will continue to be able to achieve its mission.

I would like to thank the Executive Board and all the members of IPSA RC 28 for making my term of office as its Chair such an enjoyable and rewarding one.

Michael Stein

Chair, IPSA RC 28

### **Election Results**

Members of RC28 have elected a new Executive Board consisting of the following officers:

Chair: Sonja Walti, American University, United States

First Vice-Chair: Wilfried Swenden, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Second Vice-Chair: Thomas D. Lancaster, Emory University, United States

Publication Chair: Rekha Saxena, Delhi University, India

Recruitment Chair: César Colino, Spanish Distance-Learning University, Spain

At-Large Position: Paolo Dardanelli, University of Kent, United Kingdom

At-Large Position: Dirk Brand, International Relations Practitioner, South Africa

During 28 April–28 May 2012, 64 percent of RC28's eligible voters cast ballots online through the Opinio survey system hosted by Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, USA. Ten candidates were on the ballot for the seven board positions. The new officers will be inaugurated at the RC28 Business Meeting at the IPSA conference in Madrid, Spain.

The Nominations Committee consisted of Committee Chair John Kincaid (Lafayette College, United States); Michael Burgess (University of Kent, United Kingdom); and Bertus de Villiers, (State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia).

We thank John Kincaid and his Committee for their generous efforts on behalf of RC28.

### **RC28 at this year's XXII World Congress in Madrid, July 8-12, 2012**

RC28 is hosting or co-hosting a dozen panels at this year's IPSA World Congress in a month's time. RC28 let its members and affiliates take the lead in writing proposals and recruiting participants. Our panels are a testimony to the wide range of research interests the comparative study of federalism and federations evokes. Panel topics range from local to global and from applied to theoretical. We have the pleasure of co-hosting several panels with RC5 (Comparative Studies on Local Government and Politics), RC14 (Politics and Ethnicity), and RC19 (Gender Politics and Policy).

Our RC28 business meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 10, 09:00-10:45 (am), in Tutorial 23 D. All RC28 as well as our panel chairs, discussants, and participants are cordially invited!

We may still need one or the other panel chair, co-chair, or discussant to fill in. Contact Sonja Walti ([walti@american.edu](mailto:walti@american.edu)) if interested.

General information: <http://www.ipsa.org/events/congress/madrid2012>

RC 28

panels: <http://www.ipsa.org/events/congress/madrid2012/session/6358/panel/accepted>

## Panels in Comparative Federalism and Federation

- [Accommodating Diversity Reconsidered – Shifting Territorial, Functional or Cultural Boundaries in Democratic States](#)

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM / FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACION (JOUR) – C108

Monday, July 9 – 15:00-16:45

- [Accommodating the Territorial Dimension of the Politics of Ethnicity Developing Countries \(Joint panel RC28/RC14\)](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 223

Sunday, July 8 – 13:00-14:45

- [Accommodating the Territorial Dimension of the Politics of Ethnicity in Europe and Russia \(Joint panel RC28/RC14\)](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 223

Sunday, July 8 – 11:00-12:45

- [Beyond Stability: Flexibility and Innovation in Federal Systems](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 225

Thursday, July 12 – 13:00-14:45

- [Citizenship after the Nation State](#)

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM / FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACION (JOUR) – C105

Sunday, July 8 – 13:00-14:45

- [Feminism and Federalism: State Architecture and Gendered Policy Change \(Joint panel RC19/RC28\)](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 223

Tuesday, July 10 – 15:00-16:45

- [Implications of Public Attitudes for Boundaries of National, Regional, and Local Power in Federal and Non-Federal Systems](#)

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM / FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACION (JOUR) – C105

Sunday, July 8 – 11:00-12:45

- [Inequality and Decentralised Governance. The International Metropolitan Observatory Project – Joint panel RC05 & RC28](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 231

Sunday, July 8 – 15:00-16:45

- [Inequality and Decentralized Governance \(Joint panel RC05/RC28\)](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 231

Sunday, July 8 – 13:00-14:45

- [Nation-Building in Nested Communities: Masses' and Elites' Identities in Multilayered Polities](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 222  
Thursday, July 12 – 11:00-12:45

- [The Politics of Fiscal Federalism](#)

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY / FACULTAD DE FARMACIA (FRM) – 231  
Thursday, July 12 – 9:00-10:45

- [Whither Comparative Federalism? Between National Visions and the Emergence of a Common Template for Research](#)

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM / FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA INFORMACION (JOUR) – C105  
Sunday, July 8 – 15:00-16:45

### **RC28 Business Meeting Agenda (Madrid, July 2012)**

The next Business Meeting of our Research Committee will take place during the IPSA World Congress in Madrid, July 2012.

The suggested agenda for the Business Meeting is as follows:

- Transition to the new Chair (Sonja Walti)
- Financial Report
- Report on paid-up members and recruitment efforts
- Review of RC28 mission statement
- New schedule of IPSA World Congress and its impact on RC28 meetings. RC28 New Delhi Conference (2013)

We invite Members to propose the inclusion of other items. Please contact Michael Stein ([michael.stein@utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.stein@utoronto.ca)) and Sonja Walti ([walti@american.edu](mailto:walti@american.edu)).

### **Six-year renewal of RC28 by IPSA Secretariat and Committee on Research in Training**

In the summer of 2011 our Research Committee was asked to submit a report of its activities over the previous six years. The report was sent to the Committee on Research in Training (CRT) in September 2011. A notice of the renewal of our RC membership for the next six years (2012-2018) was sent by the CRT and IPSA Executive in April 2012.