

<b>RC33 Business Meeting</b> <b>IPSA Congress, Poznan, 27 July 2016</b>
--

*Present:* Robert Adcock, Erkki Berndtson, Thibaud Boncourt, Luciana Ghica, Emily Hauptmann, Mikhail Ilyin, Tomasz Pugacewicz, Paulo Ravecca, Bob Reinalda.

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

- The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes.**

- The minutes of the 2014 business meeting (Montreal) were approved.

**3. Report on Activities 2014-2016.**

- The RC33 website was set up at the time of the 2014 Montreal Congress. It has information about many past and current RC33 activities.

Website address: <http://rc33.ipsa.org/>

- The GSPS (Global Study of Political Science) website was set up. It aims to list studies on political science worldwide and form the basis of future RC33 activities.

Website address: <http://www.rc33ipsa-globalpolitical.science/>

- At the 2014 Montreal congress, we organised three panels, as well as one special session and a joint panel with the RCs 31 and 32 (see minutes of previous business meeting).

- The RC33 has been involved in sponsoring a special workshop on "The State of the Discipline: Democracy, governance and identity within political science(s)", 8-9 May 2015 (<http://www.scienceofpolitics.eu/scope-2015/cfa/state-of-the-discipline>).

The workshop was organized within the SCOPE Conference (Science of Politics – International Interdisciplinary Conference of Political Research) at the University of Bucharest, Romania. This was the second annual SCOPE Conference.

Conference website: <http://www.scienceofpolitics.eu/about>

**4. Report on Finances – Discussion of RC33 Membership Fees.**

- We have ca. 350 Canadian dollars in a Canadian bank.
- It was decided not to collect membership fees but to leave open the possibility of collecting money for organising specific activities.

**5. Report on Poznan Panels 2016.**

- We started with ten panels. After the relocalisation, we ended up with three regular panels and one roundtable organised in Poznan:

- Political Regimes, Power Relations and the Development(s) of Social Science
  - Convenor: Paulo Ravecca.
  - Chair: Thibaud Boncourt.

- Papers:
  - Céline Mavrot, “Making Peace: Postwar Comparativists in Search of a “Universal” Administrative System”.
  - Paulo Ravecca, “The Politics of Political Science (Beyond) Latin America”.
  - Emily Hauptmann, “The New Ethics and Economics of Sharing Data in mid-20th c. US Social Science”
- Sunday 24 July, 17:30-19:15.
- Concepts and Measurements in the Study of Political Transformations
  - Convenor: Mikhail Ilyin.
  - Chair: Andrei Melville.
  - Papers:
    - Mikhail Ilyin, Anastasia Samorodova, “New Approaches to Morphological Analysis of Political Development”.
    - Ekim Arbatli, “New Approaches to Regime Classification: Alternatives to Diminished Subtypes?”.
    - Andrei Melville, “New Approaches to the Study of State Capacity and Regime Change”.
    - Arne Sönnichsen, Dr. Christopher Kaan, “No Hope from Utopia? Lessons for International Relations Theory Drawn from Fictional Utopian Societies”.
    - Roman Bäcker, “Typological Grid to Measuring Totalitarianism”.
  - Monday 25 July, 9:00-10:45.
- Who, What, How? Getting the Big Picture: The Study of Political Science as a Discipline over Time
  - Convenor: Thierry Dias Coelho.
  - Chair: Erkki Berndtson.
  - Papers:
    - Luciana Alexandra Ghica, “Discursive Patterns and Political Agendas in the Representation of the Profession and Study of Political Science in Europe (1945-2015)”.
    - Hamdy Hassan, “The Arab Spring and Political Science in North Africa”.
  - Tuesday 26 July, 9:00-10:45.
- Roundtable on Robert Adcock’s “Liberalism and the Emergence of American Political Science. A Transatlantic Tale” (OUP, 2014)
  - Convenor: Thibaud Boncourt.
  - Chair: Bob Reinalda.
  - Discussants: Robert Adcock, Erkki Berndtson, Thibaud Boncourt, Emily Hauptmann.
  - Wednesday 27 July, 9:00-10:45.
- Other panels that were originally planned:
  - Political Science in Africa.
  - Political Science in Latin America.
  - International Relations in Turkey.
  - The Uses of Literature in the Study of Politics.

- Wars and the Development of Social Sciences.
- Toxic Democracies.

## **6. Elections for the RC Board.**

- Elections were carried out. The new board for the 2016-2020 is as follows:
  - Thibaud Boncourt, CESSP, Paris (Chair).
  - Giliberto Capano, Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence.
  - Luciana Ghica, University of Bucharest.
  - Emily Hauptmann, Western Michigan University.
  - Bahgat Korany, American University in Cairo.
  - Olga Malinova, Higher School of Economics, Moscow.
  - Paulo Ravecca, Universidad de la República, Montevideo (Secretary).
  - Bob Reinalda, Radboud University, Nijmegen.
  - John Trent, University of Ottawa (Treasurer).

## **7. Discussion of Future RC Activities.**

- Interim meeting:
  - According to the IPSA rules, “all research committees are expected to organise at least one academic meeting once every four years”. The last interim meeting of the RC was held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2013. This means that we should organise a meeting in 2017.
  - There will be a window of opportunity for this in October-November 2017, as IPSA plans to organise a conference on the state of the discipline, most likely in Hanover, Germany. Marianne Kneuer, who is in charge of organising this, is keen of having RC33 play a part in the organisation. She will be in touch in due course, and we will then know more about the RC’s room for manoeuvre.
- Book series:
  - For a long time, RC33 published the “World of Political Science” book series, with Barbara Budrich as publisher and John Trent and Michael Stein as coeditors. Barbara Budrich is keen on pursuing this, and Bob Reinalda is interested in taking up the task of coordinating this.
  - The idea is to have a series of “regional reports” on political science in various parts of the world. Europe (through Giliberto Capano, see below), South America (through Paulo Ravecca) and Africa (Joleen Steyn Kotze from South Africa is planning to edit a book on political science in Africa, which would fit perfectly in the series) could potentially be the most easily covered areas.
  - The Hanover conference could be a way to kickstart this, in one way or another.
- COST project:
  - Giliberto Capano just got a four-year COST grant for a comparative sociological study of political science in Europe. This grant can mostly be used to fund meetings, but it should also give the opportunity to gather original data.
  - The project is directly in line with the Hanover conference, and the idea of extending the book series.
  - Together with the Hanover conference, this COST project may provide a window of opportunity for getting funds to sponsor similar research on other continents, either through IPSA or the Volkswagen Foundation, which will potentially provide funds for

the Hanover conference. Informal conversations with IPSA Secretary General Guy Lachapelle suggested that it would be good to have, by the time of the conference, some kind of funding request formalised.

- More details about the project may be found here:  
[http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA15207](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15207)

- Other potential publications:

- Thibaud Boncourt and Paulo Ravecca have a mind to put together a journal special issue (possibly aimed at the *International Political Science Review*?) based on the Poznan “political regimes” panel.
- More generally, there is an agreement that future panels should be organised with potential publications in mind, in order to give visibility to RC activities.

- Panels:

- The roundtable on Robert Adcock’s book having been considered a success, there is an agreement on having more similar events at future conferences and congresses.
- Some ideas for future panel topics are aired:
  - 2019 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Moscow congress. A panel could be held about this event at the 2018 Brisbane congress.
  - A roundtable on the role of political theory could be held in Brisbane. John Medearis (UC Riverside, head of RC 31 on political philosophy) has expressed his enthusiasm about this.
  - A panel (or broader project) about the academic freedom of political scientists, and the way in which political science associations deal with academic freedom, could also be held.

- Other potential activities:

- As IPSA has recently launched MOOC, there is general agreement that RC 33 could suggest a MOOC on the history of political studies.

## **8. Other Business.**

- RC33 endorses the following statement adopted by the IPSA executive committee at the Poznan Congress:

*The International Political Science Association (IPSA) expresses its sincere regrets that more than one hundred scholars of Political Science in Turkey were not able to attend the 24th World Congress of Political Science held in Poznan, July 24-28, 2016. IPSA understands that the travel ban on Turkish scholars have now been relaxed. We encourage the removal of the remaining restrictions as soon as possible to allow our colleagues to attend scholarly meetings and pursue other activities that constitute an inseparable part of their professional life.*

*Simultaneously, IPSA would like to emphasize its unqualified commitment to the observation and protection of the academic freedoms that are an integral part of professional rights of scholars, and the democratic freedoms to which they are entitled as citizens. IPSA feels strongly that Turkey, as a member of the community of democratic nations, is expected to subscribe to the same rules of academic and democratic freedoms and implement them in the same spirit as in other nations, even if under difficult conditions.*

*Based on the principles expressed in its statement on academic freedom, IPSA believes that international Political Science can only flourish under conditions in which academic and democratic freedoms are widely enjoyed.*

**9. Adjournment.**

- The meeting was adjourned.