



## RC33

### IPSA World Congress, Brisbane Business Meeting, 24 July 2018

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Minutes compiled by Thibaud Boncourt and Paulo Ravecca.

**Present:** Robert Adcock, Víctor Alarcón, Thibaud Boncourt (chair of RC33), Rainer Eisfeld, John Feng, Hamdy Hassam, Emily Hauptman, Nick Dorzweiler, Nanita Mohan, Paulo Ravecca (secretary of RC33), Marian Simms, Chetan Singai.

#### 1. Report on Activities 2016-2018.

- See the enclosed report for activities prior to the 2018 World Congress.
- See the enclosed program for a list of the five panels organized by RC33 at the 2018 World Congress. All of our panels and roundtables were well-attended by an enthusiastic audience. In some panels and especially the roundtable on critical theory, we even had to request extra chairs. In this respect, the congress can be considered a success, and it seems that our early campaign to promote our activities and recruit participants has paid off. There was general agreement that we should build up on this and keep the momentum going by starting to work on the next congress now.

#### 2. Discussion of Future Activities.

- Future activities were in particular discussed with the *next World Congress* in mind. The Congress will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 25-29 July 2020, and events before then could be designed as build-ups to Congress activities. An important thing to keep in mind is that the call for proposals will already be launched in May 2019.
- RC33 also counts among the RCs that will be *up for review by IPSA in 2019*, so the more active we are before then, the better.
- **Interim activities.** Participants agreed on the need to expand the RC's geographical reach, particularly to Africa and South Asia. Getting scholars from diverse regions to attend our activities is always a challenge and evidently related to funding issues. But getting in touch with colleagues at an early stage to let them know that there is the opportunity of presenting at the Lisbon World Congress in the framework of our RC, in a roundtable or panel, may help them to start planning and to find sources of funding. There is also the option of collaborating with local conferences and associations, as we have already done in Latin America and Europe. Should the RC organize an interim meeting before the next congress, there is also the possibility of getting a bit of funding from IPSA (there are two rounds of applications per year, with deadlines on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September). More concretely, some possibilities were discussed:

- IPSA 2020 will take place in Portugal which facilitates the incorporation of Brazilian scholars. Our RC has already initiated contacts with the Brazilian political science community through Dr. Pablo Bulcourf.
- There are concrete possibilities of reaching to the Mexican association of political science to co-sponsor, again, panels at the Latin American Political Science Association Conference (which be held in Monterrey, Mexico in 2019).
- There was general agreement that the RC should again co-sponsor the International interdisciplinary conference of political research *SCOPE: Science of politics* in 2019 (24-26 May, Bucharest), at the invitation of RC33 EC member Luciana Ghica. This time the general theme will be "Values in Politics". The call for papers will be circulated soon.

• ***IPSA World Congress 2020 – general principles.***

- Roundtables having been successful at the last two congresses, we agreed that it was a good idea to keep in mind the possibility of not only going for the traditional panel format. Aside of roundtables, some possibilities were suggested: to produce some documents in advance that may be distributed, to imagine a form of “workshop” format, etc.
- In thinking about panel projects, it is always a good idea to keep in mind potential cooperation with other RCs.

• ***IPSA World Congress 2020 – umbrella theme.*** After a fruitful conversation we agreed to have an umbrella theme for some of our events at IPSA 2020: *The challenges for Political Science in the XXI century* (working title). This would cover the obstacles/challenges that political scientists and their practice face within and outside the discipline nowadays, and could lead to events of various formats (panels, roundtables, workshops). Several potential subtopics were mentioned:

- Political pressures and challenges for political science and political scientists.
- The institutional and professional challenges facing political science in times of austerity.
- How political science is defined locally (disciplinary, multidisciplinary) and what it means for its local relevance.
- Political science as a workplace: stress, working conditions, job market, funding issues, scary future for graduate students.
- The globalization of political science. For example, we could organize an event around the idea of “political Science with an accent”, i.e. the challenges that global south scholars experience in anglo-centered academic milieus (such as IPSA). More generally, the long-standing issue of how to engage so called ‘non-western’ scholars was raised many times during the discussion.
- The impact of political science.
- The challenges facing political theorists in political science (joint panel with the RC6).

• ***IPSA World Congress 2020 – other ideas.*** Having this umbrella theme does not prevent us from organizing other activities and covering other topics, such as:

- We agreed to organize a roundtable on Paulo Ravecca’s forthcoming book: *The Politics of Political Science: Rewriting Latin American Experiences* (Routledge, 2018).
- Several colleagues contacted us to express their interest in the organization of a second roundtable on critical theory covering other questions, such as what it

means to do research in a non-positivist framework, how to make room to these approaches in political science departments, etc.

- There is interest in the organization of a panel on narrative approaches in political science.
- The need for comparative, cross-regional studies was raised and there was excitement about start working on this direction. A panel could be held with comparative papers.

• ***Other future activities.***

- The need to update our website (e.g. with the pictures we took at the 2018 Congress) and to potentially open a blog or Facebook page were discussed.
- We agreed that the GSPS project should be continued in some form or another, although no solution could be found at this stage.