

## Research Committee on Political Sociology, RC18

### Programme coordinator

Felix LOPEZ, Institute of Applied Economic Research,  
Brazil, [felixglopez@gmail.com](mailto:felixglopez@gmail.com)

Number of allocated sessions including Business meeting: 14.

### Deadlines

- On-line abstract submission **from August 25 to December 15, 2011.**
- All Forum participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay the early registration fee by **April 10, 2012**, in order to be included in the programme. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme or Abstracts Book.
- On-line registration will open **August 25, 2011.**

### Call for papers

#### Proposed sessions

in provisional order

Only abstracts submitted through [ISA website platform](#) will be considered.

### Session A

#### Going, going, ... gone? The decline of party membership in contemporary Europe

Session in English (French and Spanish translation of the abstract will be provided on Power Point)

#### Organizer

Emilie VAN HAUTE, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, [evhaute@ulb.ac.be](mailto:evhaute@ulb.ac.be)

In this session, Ingrid van Biezen (Leiden University) offers an overview of levels of party membership in European democracies and looks at changes in these levels over time, comparing party membership today with figures from both 1980 and the late 1990s. Variations between countries are emphasized (large and small, old and new democracies). Figures reported by the parties themselves are compared with survey data and the overall validity of the measures is discussed. The implications of the patterns observed are discussed, and it is suggested that membership has now reached such a low ebb that it may no longer constitute a relevant indicator of party organisational capacity.

### Session B

#### Intra-party democratization

Special session on the conference theme

Session in English (French or Spanish translation provided by typing a summary of the remarks, with the content being displayed on a screen – depending upon the audience's request)

### **Organizer**

Wolfgang RÜDIG, University of Strathclyde, UK, [w.rudig@strath.ac.uk](mailto:w.rudig@strath.ac.uk)

In modern democracies, political parties have engaged in a trend towards the enlargement of their electorate (Hazan & Rahat 2010). The aim of the session is to look at these intra-party democratization processes, such as leadership and candidate selection, or policy formation and adoption of the party platform. More specifically, the main goal is to analyze the impact of the democratization process on the nature of the link between the three faces of party organizations and intra-party cohesion. Does it strengthen loyalty towards the organization, or create sources of discontent and protest among certain party strata? Has this trend affected the recruitment capacity of parties? If so, in which ways? Papers in this session should focus primarily on the consequences of intra-party democratization processes, with a strong empirical perspective. Comparative papers are strongly encouraged.

## **Session C**

### **Intra-party conflicts: Enhancing or diminishing democracy at large?**

Session in English (French or Spanish translation provided by typing a summary of the remarks, with the content being displayed on a screen – depending upon the audience's request)

### **Organizer**

Emilie VAN HAUTE, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, [evhaute@ulb.ac.be](mailto:evhaute@ulb.ac.be)

The session will look at intra-party conflicts and cohesion, and its impact on the linkage capacity of political parties and democracy at large. Political parties are central as they fulfill major functions in representative democracies. While a lot has been written about parties in the electorate and parties in government (Reiter, 2006), the literature on parties as organizations is either rather dated or of theoretical and static nature (classifications of party organizations and party families). More specifically, the main goal of the session is to tackle the issue of conflict and competition within parties, through the lens of conflicting relations between the three faces of party organizations (Katz & Mair 2001), and factionalism (Boucek, 2009). The idea is to investigate and explain the roots of conflict and factionalism within parties. Indeed, understanding intra-party competition and dynamics is a key element to understand how parties behave and perform in the political system as a whole.

## **Session D**

### **Party membership: Exploration into the anthills of party politics**

Authors meet their critics

Session in English (French and Spanish translation of the abstracts will be

provided on Power Point)

### **Organizer**

Wolfgang RUDIG, University of Strathclyde, UK, [w.rudig@strath.ac.uk](mailto:w.rudig@strath.ac.uk)

The session will discuss recent publications in the field of party membership studies.

### **Session E**

#### **Age of democracy, age of inequality: Global perspectives on the relationship between democracy and inequality**

### **Organizer**

Joshua Kjerulf DUBROW, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, [dubrow.2@osu.edu](mailto:dubrow.2@osu.edu)

Over the last few decades, the world has witnessed extensive regional political transformation of authoritarian regimes to democratic rule, and the maturation of established democracies. Concurrent with this new age of democracy is the age of inequality: within all countries, inequalities of various types – economic, political, social, and cultural – are petrified or tend to increase. This session wishes to provide a forum where scholars engage the main questions of, “How do inequalities impact democracy?” and “How does democracy impact inequalities?”

We draw inspiration from the American Political Science Association Task Force report (2004) on “American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality.” While a landmark project, the APSA Task Force is limited to the U.S. and did not integrate several critical issues in needed detail, such as digital divide and internet democracy, globalization, mass media impact, militarization and armed conflict, immigration, and intersectional approaches to understanding how democracy and inequality co-exist. In addition, gender, ethnicity and class were underemphasized; across nations, women’s representation in parliament, ethnic political parties, and the salience of class in political participation are key features of the nexus of democracy and inequality.

This session seeks empirical (quantitative and qualitative) papers that examine the relationship between democracy and inequality in places outside of the United States. Comparative studies are strongly encouraged.

### **Session F**

#### **Political inequality outside of the West**

Joint session of RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development and RC18 Political Sociology [host committee]

Political inequality (POLINQ) can be defined as structured differences in influence over government decisions. POLINQ is a multidimensional concept – comprised of voice and response – that occurs in all types of governance structures, from social movement organizations, to local and national governments, on to global governance. Voice refers to how constituencies express their interests to decision-makers, either directly or through representatives. Response refers to how decision-makers act and react to their constituencies, and take the forms of symbols and policy.

While the established literature on other major types of inequality, such as economic and educational inequalities, addresses basic empirical questions of “what are the causes and consequences of this inequality?” and “how does this inequality impact social transformation?”, empirical studies of POLINO, especially outside of Western countries, are few. As a result, our knowledge of the relationships between political power, political inequality and social and political transformations experienced outside of the West is lacking. Recent events in the Middle East amplify the importance, and urgency, of these issues.

This session seeks empirical (qualitative and quantitative) papers on the topic of POLINO that feature (a) processes of social and political transformation in (b) countries outside of the West. Comparative studies are strongly encouraged.

Key research questions include:

1. How do we define and measure political inequality?
2. How does political inequality differ from democracy and the quality of democracy?
3. How does political inequality interact with economic, gender, racial, ethnic, educational, and other inequalities?
4. What are the relationships between political power, political inequality, and social transformations?
5. How politically unequal are nations outside of the West?
6. How does social and political change impact political inequality?
7. What are the consequences of political inequality on peoples, societies and social structures?

## **Session G**

### **Politics of community and community development in the South: An epistemological engagement**

#### **Organizers**

Kasi ESWARAPPA, National Institute of Rural Development, India, [kasieswar@gmail.com](mailto:kasieswar@gmail.com) M. Arum KUMAR, Ambedkar University, India, [maruncu@gmail.com](mailto:maruncu@gmail.com)

Democracy and social justice have become part and parcel of the society and occupies top most priority of the elected governments. To address social justice and overall development, state is initiated the community development in order to support the poor and sections of the Indian society. This has become major initiatives of the government during their five year plans. It got tremendous response and functioning positively in order to ameliorate the poverty and vulnerability over the years. It drastically bring the poor under its umbrella. People are electing the governments democratically and there is large scale attendance of voter turnouts.

Post 1990s reforms have resulted multiple ways on the developmental initiatives of the state. For instance during this phase you find large scale involvement of donor agencies in the policies of the state vis-à-vis poor and vulnerable sections. There is an also influx of multi-national companies in the name of sustainable development. There is an also new form of politics emerging for instance identity politics. This paved the way for politics of identity formations which resulted

sectoral divisions among various groups of people in India. This is the crux of the contemporary society and all the parties revolve around politics of communities. To understand this new phenomena, our session would invite papers which demonstrates an epistemological engagement of the Politics of Community and community development.

## **Session H**

### **Participatory institutions, political clientelism and democratization within the State**

Session in English, with a Spanish translation provided depending on the audience's request

#### **Organizer**

Felix G. LOPEZ, Institute of Applied Economic Research,  
Brazil, [felixglopez@ipea.gov.br](mailto:felixglopez@ipea.gov.br)

During the last few decades democratic regimes in different countries fostered institutional innovations in order to widen citizen participation in the planning, implementation and public control of policies. We can call this set of institutional experiences participatory experiments (Avritzer, 2010). The expansion in the number and scope of these institutions – which unite civil society groups organized in policy deliberation – has the potential to advance the democratization of state structures and to reduce levels of political inequality, if political inequality is defined as the difference among social groups to influence government decisions. Another consequence of the rise of participatory institutions within the state structure has been the reduction in the range of opportunities for policies based on political clientelism due to the expansion and diversification of the public sphere via the increase in the number of groups taking place in public deliberation.

This outcome is not always so easily reached, however, because participatory institutions often merge in a peculiar way with traditional political practices, among them, clientelism. If on the one hand participatory institutions work against the reproduction of political clientelism – at different levels of state action – these institutions can, on the other hand, adapt to reproduce clientelism due to entrenched practices within state organizations.

The papers should discuss research findings that address the interaction between participatory institutions and their impact on clientelistic practices. In this sense they should ideally discuss a) the role participatory institutions play in transforming clientelistic practices, b) how both have adapted to the new democratic context, c) the new forms of political clientelism in a context where participatory institutions are central.

## **Session I**

### **Civil Society and the State in Latin America and beyond: new patterns of relationship**

Regular session (4-5 paper presentations / 90 minutes)

Session in English

### **Organizers**

Elisa Reis and Graziella Moraes Dias da Silva (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

This session will look at new patterns of relationship between the state and civil society. It will take the Latin American experience as a starting point given that civil society organizations in the region have grown, diversified, and increasingly became State partners. For a number of scholars, this development points to the strengthening of democracy. For others, on the contrary, it signals to the weakening of civil society as an autonomous actor. The session invites presentations dealing with the relationship between State and Civil Society organizations (e.g. social movements, non-governmental organizations, foundations) in different spheres (e.g. policy partnerships, forums, international initiatives). Research projects focusing in Latin American countries but also in different regions of the world are welcomed.

## **Session J**

### **The political parties' appeal to religious voters in Europe**

#### **Organizer**

Piero Ignazi  
University of Bologna  
piero.ignazi@unibo.it

The panel would focus on the supply side of the interplay between the demands by the religious constituencies and the programs and policies presented by political parties. The panel would welcome contributions on the relevance of religious and moral-ethical issues in party manifestos and in the legislative activities by political parties in Europe. The papers should investigate how, to what extent, and through what proposals and issues, political parties try to attract the constituency of the most committed religious voters, which still exist in spite of the secularization wave. The papers could deal with national cases or present comparative data set. The panel would particularly profit from contributions which either compare countries with accelerated secularization and countries with a slow or a reverse process in the recent years, and investigate whether the level of secularization has been affected by the supply side, that is by the offer and the policies put forward by political parties (whether confessional or not).

## **Session K**

### **Leaders and leadership. How the presidentialization of politics affected the balance of powers within parties**

Session in English (French and Spanish translation of the abstracts will be provided on Power Point)

**Organizer:**

Gianluca Passarelli, University of Bologna, [gianluca.passarelli@unibo.it](mailto:gianluca.passarelli@unibo.it)

In this session we aim to investigate, strongly encouraging a comparative perspective, the relationship between the «presidentialization of politics» (Poguntke – Webb 2005) and the change in the parties balance of powers. The presidentialization of politics has three features: the executive, the electoral, and the party. The political and sociological causes of such a process have been investigated, but we would analyze the way in which the «presidentialization» affected the party. The main hypothesis is that the outcomes of the presidentialization vary depending on the institutional system – presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary - in which parties operate. In particular, the «dominant coalition», is a central aspect that is related to the presidentialization of the «party feature». Moreover if we consider that «the organizational power within a party is not necessarily concentrated in the internal or in the parliamentary positions» (Panebianco 1988: 37), we need to look at the different dimensions of the dominant coalition. The level of internal cohesion, the degree of stability, and the map of the organization power. These latter three dimensions should be analyzed in relation to the «presidentialization» process. Following this line of thinking the role and the type of the leaders/leadership, in the light of the «personalization and presidentialization», assume a crucial position to be investigated. In particular, the research/papers should focus on the different effects of presidentialization on parties by putting in evidence similarities and differences between presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary systems.

**Session L****Democratization and Elections in Latin America**

Round table (3-4 paper presentations / 90 minutes)

**Organizer:**

Rosario Queirolo, Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay ([rqueirolo@um.edu.uy](mailto:rqueirolo@um.edu.uy))

Since the Third Wave of Democratization, most Latin American nations have undergone diverse processes of consolidating their institutions, a goal that has been achieved with varied degree of success. This panel will look at recent institutional reform processes within Latin American countries aimed at deepening democracy, paying special attention to electoral rules and electoral reform and their consequences.

**Session M****New Perspectives in the Study of Political Behavior in the Americas**

Round table (3-4 paper presentations / 90 minutes)

Session in English

**Organizer:**

María Fernanda Boidi, LAPOP -Vanderbilt University, USA and Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay ([fernandaboidi@gmail.com](mailto:fernandaboidi@gmail.com))

**Description:**

The field of comparative political behavior in Latin America has experienced a significant growth in the recent past, as more sources of data exist and are available to scholars and policy makers. As democracy consolidates in the region, the more basic concerns on public support for democracy and its institutions have given way to new substantive interests such as contextual determinants of attitudes toward the politics and innovative methods to studying them. Papers presented in this panel address those new interests as well as the new methodological challenges that arise with their study.

**Session N****Responses to Stigmatization and Redress Rights**

Round table (3-4 paper presentations / 90 minutes)

Session in English

**Organizer**

Graziella Moraes Dias da Silva (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

**Participants:**

Crystal Fleming (Stony Brook University, USA).  
 Elisa Reis (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)  
 Jessica Welburn (Harvard University, USA)  
 Joshua Guetzkow (University of Jerusalem, Israel)  
 Michèle Lamont (Harvard University, USA)  
 Nissim Mizrahi and Hanna Herzog (Tel-Aviv University, Israel)

This roundtable focuses on an ongoing collective book project organized by Michèle Lamont (Harvard University) comparing responses to ethnoracial stigmatization and collective organization in the United States, Brazil, and Israel. The project has been developed since 2005 and research teams in each site have conducted about 150 in-depth interviews with stigmatized individuals in large metropolitan areas focusing on their ideas about racial identification, experiences of racial discrimination, as well as individual and collective strategies of destigmatization. Dialoguing with the theme of the ISA 2012 Forum, we will present our findings exploring the different conceptions of social justice and redress rights and their relationship to individual responses to stigmatization.

**Session O****Transcending the national borders: Social forces and socio-political identities in international politics**

Round table (3-4 paper presentations / 90 minutes)



**Organizer**

Mikhail Molchanov  
molchan@stu.ca

The panel will discuss issues related to social determination of international relations, understood not so much as relations between states but as relations between peoples, identified through their numerous class, group, gender, national and broader societal affiliations. In the era of globalization, old identities acquire new meanings, as they become subject to creeping influences from abroad and through manifold transnationalization processes. Moreover, these new old identities (class, gender, nation, religion and the like) influence political and social processes on a far grander scale than before. One case in point is the emergence of new social movements spanning entire planet and transcending any particular geographic localization. Another example is revitalization of classic nationalism in the form of "pan" movements, religious revivalism and new manifestations of cross-national solidarity on both left and right sides of the political spectrum. The rise of the social communication networks and the emergence of the growing group of "netizens" coordinating their demands to their respective governments globally is yet another phenomenon of the same group. As national societies become more and more open and receptive to influences from afar, domestic political and social life gets framed in patterns that are partly borrowed-partly constructed from the social and cultural material developed elsewhere. The panel will discuss the issues pertaining to these 2 sets of questions: a) international influences on individual societies - and these societies responses to transnationalization; and (b) domestic determination of international relations and foreign policies of individual countries, with an emphasis on new and old politics of identity, as well as traditional power, culture, status, and class issues, as they get to play on the interface between the national society and the global forces that are continuously reshaping it. If this is acceptable, I will be able to devote some time to shifting through the paper proposals and communicating with prospective participants.

**Session P****Business meeting**

**Chair** Piero IGNAZI, Università di Bologna, Italy, [piero.ignazi@unibo.it](mailto:piero.ignazi@unibo.it)