



Farewell Letter from the Past Chair

Dear members,

after eight years of chairmanship I leave the charge to Laurence Morel, elected by the new CPS board as chairperson.

These years have been characterized by an intense activity of promotion and organization for increasing the CPS presence at the official conferences of IPSA and ISA. This aim has been met, in my opinion. The number of sessions we sponsored covered the maximum numbers of allotted sessions to CPS at each occasion. Moreover, as required by the statutes, we organized inter-congresses conferences.

Some workgroups affiliated to CPS have also been particularly active, like the one on 'Members and Activists of Political Parties' now chaired by Emilie van Haute. This working group stands as a marvellous example of international cooperation and high quality scholar research. I hope Laurence Morel will stimulate and foster similar groups.

CPS is in good health on both the financial and membership side.

It has 110 members from ISA and 552 IPSA members interested in CPS activity. The Financial Balance at 31 July 2014 is 3,377 euro.

I am totally confident that the new chairperson and the new board will increase the CPS activity on every aspect.

Piero Ignazi



Introduction Letter from the New Chair

Dear CPS members,

it's a great pleasure and honor to take over from Piero Ignazi at the head of the Committee of Political Sociology, and let me first thank you all for having me elected in the new Executive Board, which in turn elected me to the Chair. With the help of Ferdinand Mueller-Rommel, who has kindly accepted to be the co-Chair of the Committee, I will do my best in this four years term to fulfill the main tasks assigned by IPSA and ISA to Research Committees, that is: running panels at the various Congresses and Forums of the two Associations, being present as well at other disciplinary meetings, possibly by means of institutionalized links (like we already have with APSA), organizing academic conferences and research activities through working groups, and disseminating information to members via our Website and periodic Newsletter. In this latter respect, I want to encourage all of you to send to me regularly (laurence.morel@eui.eu) news or relevant information about the academic/research activities that you are conducting and wish to bring to the attention of CPS members, or other news you know about and could profitably be posted on our website (just published books, events like conferences, summer schools, Masters or Ph.D. courses, vacant positions...). Regarding the CPS activities, the first announcement I want to make is the launching by Ferdinand of a new working group on "Personalization and Politics", which will start soon with a broad interdisciplinary call to everybody interested to participate. Beside the other CPS working groups on "Members and Activists of Political Parties", "Social Movements and Contentious Politics", and "Political Inequality", this new working group will form the backbone of the scientific activity of the CPS in the next few years. I myself plan to create a fifth group on "The Transformations of Democracy", at the crossroad of political theory and political sociology, which could be another pillar of our activity. The CPS is a "big" committee (more than 600 members), with a "big" history, since its foundation by Lipset and Rokkan in 1960, and the involvement of other giants of the discipline like Raymond Aron, Simon Eisenstadt, Mattei Dogan, Juan Linz or Giovanni Sartori, so we should prove worthy of our masters...on the shoulders of which we are now standing.

Laurence Morel