

NEWSLETTER

2020: a challenging year

Without a doubt, 2020 has been a challenging and difficult year. However, from all regions of the world we have learned to adapt to new ways of living and working. This includes the development of studies in Political Sociology, a discipline that has much to contribute to the new phenomena we face in the COVID era. Due to the constraints of the pandemic a number of events have had to be postponed to 2021 for security reasons. Best regards to all of our colleagues, keep safe and we look forward to meeting you in person in 2021!

CPS

SAVE THE DATE

The CPS annual conference (*Political Parties and Democracy*) will be held in October 2021 (exact date to be confirmed) and the IPSA annual conference (*New Nationalisms in an Open World*) will take place in July 10-14, 2021.



IPSA AISP

26th World Congress of Political Science
26ème Congrès mondial de science politique
26º Congresso Mundial de Ciência Política
10-14 | 07 | 2021 Lisbon, Portugal

CPS Annual Conference postponed to October 2021



Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Research Committee on Political Sociology Annual Conference "Political Parties and Democracy - Internal and External Challenges" has been postponed to October 2021.

The exact new date of the event will be communicated as soon as possible. We hope that you will be able to join us next year.



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

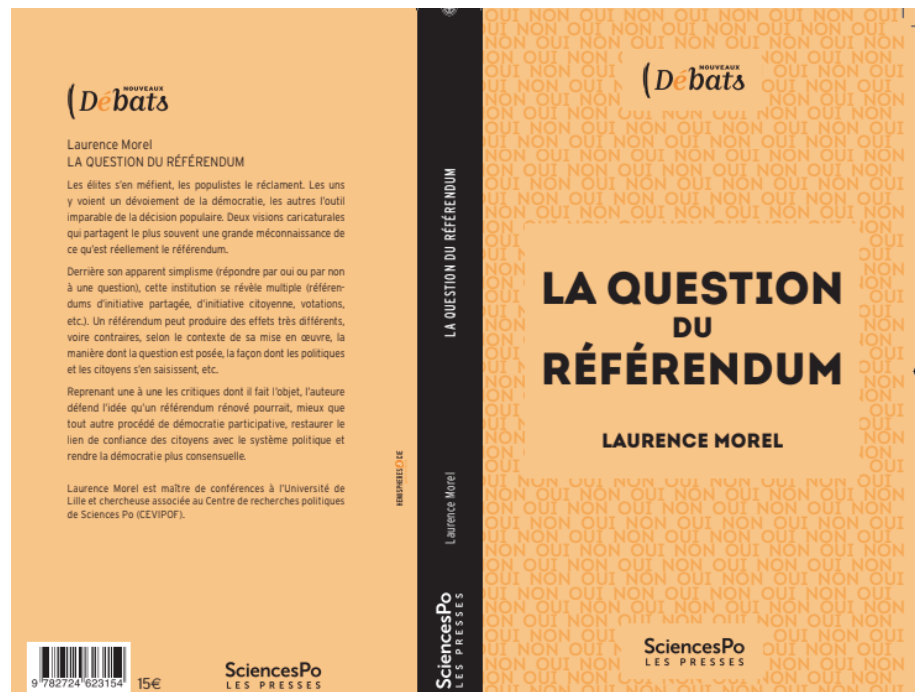
Prof. Morel's book, *La question du référendum* has been published by Presses de Sciences Po. **Laurence Morel** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Lille and Sciences Po Paris. The following is a brief summary of the book:

Referendums are increasing in most areas of the world, at both national and subnational levels. Meanwhile, citizens' demand for direct democracy has never been stronger. This book is both a comparative study and a work on France, which has a very specific history of the process. It opens with a chapter on definitions (what is a referendum, how it differs and resembles other voting procedures, what forms it takes and which variables are relevant to construct a typology) followed by a chapter comparing the provisions and practice of referendums around the world, leading to different country profiles and highlighting what definitely appears as a French exceptionalism among democracies. It continues with a historical account of the device in its three founding countries (USA, France and Switzerland), showing reciprocal influences, and pursues with an in-depth analysis of the French case since the revolution including Napoleonic episodes, its eclipse under the Third and Fourth Republic, and its return in force with De Gaulle as an instrument of the executive - forging a regime close to Weberian "plebiscitary democracy".

However, the French experience took a different path in 2005 with the referendum on the European Constitutional Treaty, which was largely suffered by the president, being an example of a "politically obligatory referendum" – a referendum formally originated in the government but in practice imposed by parties, grassroots pressure or "appropriateness", examples of which are multiplying in Europe. Chapters 5 and 6 analyse this request for referendums from below in France, how it relates to the flaws of the Fifth Republic and how parties have responded to it. The thesis of the book is that the introduction of the popular initiative can constitute a response to the interrelated crisis of confidence and performance of the French political system. A major means of achieving this is through its "Swiss" effect, of strengthening consultation upstream of policies. Far from being the strictly majority system pointed out by its detractors, the referendum can thus foster a more consensual democracy.

But the referendum remains a highly controversial process. The last part of the book turns to classic and new critiques addressed to it. Chapter 7 shows its fragile status in democratic theory. Paradoxically, the participatory current shows scarce empathy for the device, and it arouses little interest on the part of innovative theories which developed from the 1990s, starting with that of deliberative democracy, which is frankly hostile. Its almost exclusive defense by populists today further adds to discredit. The criticisms of the referendum, examined in chapters 8 and 9, are grouped into two main questions. That of its capacity to reflect the popular will, both as the will of the majority and the real preferences of the citizens. Alleged inherent defects of the device, such as binary choice or proxy voting are discussed ; And that of the political effects of referendums, both in terms of policies ("good government", impact on minorities, individual rights, etc.) and politics (conflict resolution, efficiency of institutions, responsibility of those in power, etc.). The book shows that many of the faults attributed to the referendum seem exaggerated or are also found in representative democracy. They can also be corrected by appropriate methods. The conclusion articulates concrete proposals for reforming the referendum in France.

Find the complete book at: <http://www.pressesdesciencespo.fr/en/book/?GCOI=27246100996600>



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

PAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Samah Rafiq (PhD Candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University) published an academic paper in the journal *Geopolitics* titled *Linear borders, partition and identity in postcolonial South Asia*.

Access: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14650045.2020.1757652>

Gisselle Vila Benites and **Anthony Bebbington** published *Political Settlements and the Governance of COVID-19: Mining, Risk, and Territorial Control in Peru*, in *Journal of Latin American Geography*.

Access:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341784824_Political_Settlements_and_the_Governance_of_COVID-19_Mining_Risk_and_Territorial_Control_in_Peru

Kasi Eswarappa from Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (India) recently published:

- The paper *Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and Their Role in the Development of Women: A Case from Andhra Pradesh*, Contemporary Voice of Dalit. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X20922437>

- Joint Essay with **Gladis S Mathew** *Leprosy* In: Romaniuk S., Thapa M., Marton P. (eds) The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Global Security Studies. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-3-319-74336-3_546-1

- Joint Essay with **Atrayee Saha** *Vulnerability and Vulnerable Groups of People* In S. Romaniuk, M. Thapa and P. Marton. (eds.), The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Global Security Studies, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-319-74336-3_369-1

Maurice Satineau's book on Covid 19 and its political repercussions, *Covid 2020 les symptômes politiques* has been published in Septembre 2020 by Editions à la Carte. ISBN: 9 782 839 930 277

Access:

<https://www.ipsa.org/na/book/covid-2020-les-symptomes-politiques>

NEW CPS PERMANENT SEMINAR

CPS TALKS WITH AUTHORS



"ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND INTRA-PARTY COMPETITION"



Gianluca Passarelli - Author
Political Science Department
Sapienza University (Italy)

**JANUARY 28, 2021
(online)**



Kenneth Bunker - Discussant
Election Observatory
Diego Portales University (Chile)

Gianluca Passarelli, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science of Sapienza University, will be presenting his latest book *Preferential Voting Systems: Influence on Intra-Party Competition and Voting Behaviour*.

Summary of the presentation:

I shall present the interaction between the electoral systems and the intra-party competition. In particular, starting from my latest book, I will examine the effects of preferential voting on intraparty electoral competition and voting behavior. Using data covering 19 countries and over 200 elections, this study sheds light on a somewhat neglected aspect of electoral systems. I will demonstrate that the ability of voters to influence the selection and deselection of MPs under preferential voting systems is not as important as is often assumed. Instead, their ability to shape the election of a given candidate depends heavily on the balance between party power and voter power. In this way, my book advances the understanding of the effect of preferential voting on intra-party dynamics, parliamentary turnover, and voter behavior. Based on a rigorous, data-led methodological approach, the book contributes to both the theory and practice of the study of electoral systems, and should be read by scholars, students and practitioners interested in preferential voting systems.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Open Call for Participation in *Liberalism Infected: Revisiting Political and Socio-Legal Thought in the Aftermath of COVID-19*, a summer school for graduate students to be held in Central European University - Budapest (or online depending), on July 12- 23, 2021 (Deadline February 14). More details can be found at this [link](#).



CALL FOR PAPERS

CPS is organizing a special panel at the **2021 APSA Annual Meeting**, on challenges to political parties and their multifaceted transformations. Proposal Submissions are open. Deadline: January 14.

The worldwide transformation of political party influence pointed out by different scholars since at least the 1990s has continued and even accelerated its pace. This process raises a series of challenges to democracies, such as the reduction of democratic accountability, greater turmoil and economically costly subversions of the rule of law, and increasing difficulties to channel demands from below. In many long-standing democracies, political parties seem to have strongly reduced their capacity to recruit and retain members, mobilize their voters conserving their long-term loyalty, represent their own constituencies, and reverse widespread political disaffection. Moreover, the weakening of traditional parties has been accompanied by a sharp decline in the support for center-left parties in countries like France, Italy, Germany, and the UK, and an increase of polarization: a new upsurge of the radical right in Europe and the Americas (USA, Brasil, Italy, Chile, Hungary, France) and the rebirth of a radical left, in the context of a renewed interest in socialism. This so-called new left has been capable of accessing the central government (Greece, Spain), and it obtained electoral success at the legislative level (France, Germany). However, the radical left also challenges democratic governance via noninstitutionalized social movements (Chile, France). Therefore, it seems that liberal democracy is currently tensioned by illiberal tendencies at the macro level. But the meso level of politics also faces challenges. One of them is that many aspects of politics seem to become more personalized and focus on individual actors in the political process. Political parties have historically played a fundamental role in aggregating voters' interests through strong programmatic platforms –in particular in Europe, the region in which they took their modern shape and attained the highest levels of institutionalization. Different factors are pointed out by scholars as causes for their delegitimization: a) the ideological convergence between liberal and social democratic parties, b) the incapacity of “old” parties to connect with the diverse interests of contemporaneous societies, c) the weakening of their representative function, and d) the failure of liberal democracy to achieve welfare for all citizens. These factors have had an impact on the growing influence of direct democracy claims and of innovative ways of participatory democracy. The CPS panel at the APSA meeting aims to explore the new internal and external challenges to political parties in order to account for their multifaceted transformations and comparatively examine the different expressions of the decline or transformation of their influence. The panel welcomes papers on any aspect of party organization, its transformation, causes and effects.

You can submit your proposal at this link: <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2021/>. For more information please contact the organizers: Stephanie Alenda (salenda@unab.cl) and Karina Kosiara-Pedersen (kp@ifs.ku.dk).

2021 APSA Annual Meeting

