

NEWSLETTER

FAREWELL WORDS FROM OUR FORMAL CHAIR

Dear CPS members,

After four particularly busy years as President of the CPS, it was with great pleasure that I handed over to St phanie Alenda of Andr s Bello University last fall. As organizer in 2017 of a magnificent three-day international conference in Santiago de Chile on the theme "Redefining political sociology", St phanie has proved to be a kind of natural successor to this function. I remain vice-president and will continue to serve the CPS in this role, with the help of the other vice-president, Robert Fishman, and the other members of the CPA Executive committee. So it is not a total farewell....



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WELCOME WORDS FROM OUR NEW CHAIR

Dear all,

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is St phanie Alenda, I am originally from France, and since the end of 2018 I am the new Chair of the Research Committee on Political Sociology. My objective during these 4 years will be to focus on the consolidation of our committee inaugurated at the IV World Congress of Sociology by a group of leading scholars, S.M. Lipset, G. Sartori, J.J.Linz, S. Rokkan, K.W. Deutsch, M. Janowitz and others, within two major international associations: the ISA and the IPSA. This represents a huge challenge as it implies to pursue the reflection on the identity of a frontier discipline that these world-renowned scholars sought to institutionalize. This newsletter, and other projects that we will be sharing with you, will help us to achieve this goal. It will be sent bi-annually to our members providing them with relevant information regarding publications on political sociology, scientific activities and events organized by CPS, collaboration opportunities, and other information that our members will provide. This new board is also formed by:

- Laurence Morel, Vice-Chair
- Robert Fishman, Vice-Chair
- Julieta Su rez-Cao, Treasurer and Secretary
- Karina Kosiara-Pedersen, Officer
- Hiroko Takeda, Officer
- Michelangelo Vercesi, Officer
- Dan Slater, Officer
- Carolina Aylwin, Executive Assistant

We are all looking forward to your participation in our committee.

Revisiting Major Accomplishments of the RC on Political Sociology

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The Research Committee on Political Sociology stands as one of the most important institutions in the twentieth century study of politics within the disciplines of both sociology and political science, and it continues to play a vital role in scholarly life. The historic impact of work carried out under the institutional “umbrella” of the RC is so great that it seems to make sense to revisit the past achievements of our RC as a way to draw inspiration for the future. At least two extraordinarily influential contributions carried out under the auspices of the RC deserve our attention – the remarkable volume of Lipset and Rokkan on party systems and voter alignments and the pioneering work of Juan Linz on the breakdown of democratic regimes. Both of these extraordinary works of scholarship did much more than simply enlighten readers at the time of their publication; both works served to orient scholarship for more than a generation.

The two studies are quite different from one another although the scholars who produced them were close friends – their friendship having been fortified by encounters at meetings organized by the RC and the larger associations of political scientists and sociologists. Lipset and Rokkan focused on large-scale processes of historical change and socio-structural cleavages that conditioned the political work of launching political parties and anchoring their claims in stable connections to social constituencies. Linz centered his attention on somewhat more short-term processes of political change – episodes in which democratic rule collapsed – and on the huge systemic consequences that were generated by unwise political decisions or practices. Both volumes dealt with historical matters of great significance, not with the latest headlines or even with recent developments. In both instances, the authors addressed matters of vast substantive importance and they did so in ways built rather eclectically from the broad sociological tradition. Neither study was constructed primarily as an effort to address a quite specific theoretical debate; instead both of them drew on –and further elaborated– existing theoretical perspectives as a way to successfully address major substantive questions. The vast impact of both works rested on the authors’ ability to make use of sociological insights and analytical tools to propose quite compelling answers to large questions. They employed the most helpful tools of political sociological analysis to make headway in our understanding of major historical processes. Thus, both works showed their readers how crucial historical processes could be studied and understood. And in the process, they helped to make the case for the relevance of political sociological analysis. Moreover, they relied on the structure provided by the RC to draw together collaborators and contributors to collective volumes who possessed deep knowledge on the complexities of relevant country cases. The RC greatly facilitated their work and helped draw attention to it. But their work was not really a self-conscious effort to make the case for the relevance of political sociology. It was an effort to increase our understanding of large and important processes. Lipset, Rokkan, Linz, and others like them used political sociology as one uses a set of valuable tools to carry out an important task.

It follows that our challenge today is to address genuinely large questions, including large historical ones. Questions that genuinely matter a great deal for human welfare. And our strategy should be to use political sociological tools as effectively as possible while relying on the RC to facilitate our work and to promote human connections that will sustain it. If we do all of this, the stature of the RC in principle should be reinforced as a by-product of our work. But of course all of this is easier said than done! Lipset, Rokkan and Linz were all historical giants in the development of our field. But in their example lies inspiration. Inspiration for our work and our challenges.

APSA next annual meeting at San Francisco, 10.-13. September 2020.

Invitation to participate in closed panel about Political Sociology

CPS will hold a panel at the next APSA World Congress entitled *Personalization of Politics and Challenges to Democracy*. Our members Stéphanie Alenda (Andrés Bello National University) and Karina Kosiara-Pedersen (University of Copenhagen) will serve as Group Chairs at this important instance. The panel description is:

Democracy is not a given and liberal democracy is currently challenged by illiberal tendencies at the macro level. The meso level of politics also face challenges. One of them is that politics seems to become more personalized, understood as increased political weight to individual actors in the political processes, and decreased importance to political groups. This could imply decreased access to collective resources and hence prove a challenge for the participation of less resourceful individuals. On this basis the panel aims to explore to what extent the personalization of politics and decreased importance of political groups such as parties, interest groups and social movements have an impact on the inclusiveness and representativeness of these institutions? And does the personalization of politics challenge the extent to which mass publics are able to barricade against illiberal tactics and practices?

The organizers encourage diversity and welcome papers applying all kinds of social science approaches, methods and empirical cases. This is the link for the call: <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2020/related-group-calls-for-proposal>.

Feel free to contact the organizers if you have questions or comments, and if you intend to attend APSA: Stéphanie Alenda (salenda@unab.cl) - Karina Kosiara-Pedersen (kp@ifs.ku.dk)



Upcoming RC06 panels at 26th IPSA World Congress

CPS is organizing some panels that will be held at the meeting in Lisbon and will count with the participation of some of our members. In our next Newsletter we will be giving more information and details of the panels and the papers that will be presented.



Invitation to RC18 panels at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology: ***Collective action beyond conventional political participation***

PROGRAMME COORDINATORS:

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Political disenchantment across the world is a widely documented phenomenon. Pundits and scholars alike have analyzed the decline of electoral participation and the withdrawal of citizens from traditional channels of political participation such as political parties. At the same time, since 2011 particularly, there has been an upsurge of non-routine forms of political participation such as social movements. These have put into question the functioning of both democracy (and lack thereof) and the neoliberal economy, and engaged with institutional politics in various ways. While the scholarly literature has analyzed electoral abstention, the decline of political parties and civil society organizations, and the rise of protests, less attention has been put on other forms of collective action that go beyond conventional and non-routine political participation.

Beyond normative perspectives on what forms of participation democracies require, this panel presents contributions that analyze new modes of political participation, emerging political actors, and ways in which people engage politically that blur the boundaries between conventional and non-routine political participation.

- 1) Activists Causes and Repertoires of Collective Action in Latin America and Europe in the 21st Century: Circulation, Spaces, Uses, Trajectories.
- 2) Everyday Citizenship
- 3) How Far the Elected Representatives and Officials like the Democracy?
- 4) Movement-Parties in Action: Challenges and Outcomes
- 5) Nuevas movilizaciones por vivienda y derecho a la ciudad en América Latina en contexto de inflexión neoliberal
- 6) Elections in Latin America
- 7) The Political Innovation of Potere Al Popolo! a Leftish Movement-Party in Italy
- 8) Immigrant Political Participation in the Global South / Participación Política Inmigrante En El Sur Global
- 9) Prácticas Políticas De Los Sectores Populares En América Latina



IV ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY

**July 14-18, 2020
Porto Alegre, Brazil**

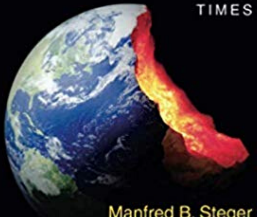
NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Send your news to: caylwin@uc.cl - Carolina Aylwin, CPS Executive Assistant

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Globalization Matters

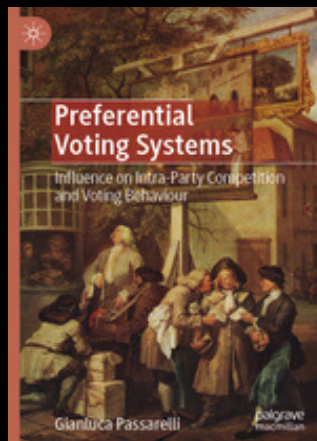
ENGAGING
THE GLOBAL IN
UNSETTLED
TIMES



Manfred B. Steger
Paul James

The book *Globalization Matters: Engaging the Global in Unsettled Times* has been published by Cambridge University Press. The newly released book was written by Manfred Steger, Full Professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (United States), in coauthorship with Paul James,

The book *Preferential Voting Systems. Influence on Intra-Party Competition and Voting Behavior* has been published by Palgrave Macmillan. Congratulations to its author, Gianluca Passarelli, Associate Professor in Political Science at Sapienza University Roma (Italy).



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PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Michelangelo Vercesi, Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Democracy of the Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany), has published three articles:

- Salvati, Eugenio and Michelangelo Vercesi (2019). "Party Euroscepticism and the Conditions of Its Success: Conceptualization and Explanation," *Quaderni di scienzapolitica* 26(2): 301-330.
- Vercesi, Michelangelo (2019). "Democratic Stress and Political Institutions: Drives of Reforms of Bicameralism in Times of Crisis," *doi:10.1080/00344893.2019.1635195*.
- Musella, Fortunato and Michelangelo Vercesi (2019). "Definitions and Measures of Party Institutionalization in New Personal Politics. The Case of the 5 Star Movement," *Zeitschrift für vergleichende Politikwissenschaft/Comparative Governance and Government* 13(2): 225-247.



Democratic Practice

ORIGINS OF THE IBERIAN DIVIDE
IN POLITICAL INCLUSION

ROBERT M. FISHMAN

Robert Fishman's book, *Democratic Practice: Origins of the Iberian Divide in Political Inclusion* has been published by Oxford University Press. Fishman, who is Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Carlos III University of Madrid, (Spain), shares some details of his work:

"Building on an extensive program of multi-method research, Democratic Practice develops a theory explaining why some democracies include the economically underprivileged and cultural others within the circles of political relevance that set policies and the political agenda whereas others exclude them. On the basis of historically-minded in-depth research on Portugal and Spain, the book elaborates a new theoretical explanation for the breadth of democratic inclusion and draws out implications for democracies everywhere.

The study offers an approach to the study of democratic inclusion that emphasizes how actors actually conduct themselves in political life and shows the advantages of this approach. Democratic Practice examines the record of two countries that began the worldwide turn to democracy of the last quarter of the twentieth century, showing how and why basic cultural assumptions about what democracy is, and how political actors should treat one another, diverged along with related forms of practice. The book's argument focuses on the mediating causal role of cultural legacies of national political histories and emphasizes the significance of interactions between protest movements and institutional office holders for the attainment of political equality. The book places cultural change in the context of social hierarchies, economic conflict and political change examining and theorizing the interactions between these arenas. Democratic Practice offers detailed empirical evidence on the enduring impact of national political histories and on numerous benefits provided by an inclusive approach to democratic politics."