

Gender and Diversity in Political Science

IPSA's *Gender and Diversity Monitoring Report 2017* maintains the focus on gender of previous reports (2011, 2013) but adds consideration of other dimensions of diversity. Each of the reports has been based on a survey of the national political science associations (PSAs) affiliated with IPSA.

Findings from the 2017 national PSA survey



Of the 55 national PSAs affiliated with IPSA 33 responded. Findings show that:

- About 1/3 of members in large national PSAs were women;
- 39% of Presidents of national PSAs were women;
- Additionally, 39% of Executive members and 37% of Executive Directors/Secretary-Generals were women;
- Approximately 42% of national PSAs indicate their country contains Indigenous peoples but only two (the Australian and American PSAs) systematically collect information concerning Indigenous members;
- Only a handful of national PSAs collect information on lines of race/ethnicity, language and Indigeneity; none do so on lines of religion.

Institutional structures and good practices

The 2017 survey found that the number of PSAs with institutional structures to promote diversity had risen to 19. These include bodies to promote diversity in the profession as well as research groups on gender, race and ethnicity. More rarely, bodies have also been established to address Indigenous issues. Examples of good practice include improved collection of demographic data, the alternation of men and women in leadership positions and greater recognition of diversity research through the awarding and naming of prizes for academic excellence. The exchange of information between PSAs on what diversity initiatives have worked is an important aspect of the IPSA Monitoring Reports.

Findings from IPSA data

IPSA data provided by the Secretariat shows various positive trends in women's participation in IPSA since it has consistently risen in the last two decades. The representation of women on both the IPSA Council and the Executive Committee is now over the 40% range. Likewise, women comprise about 40% of IPSA members, and over 40% of IPSA World Congress

participants. Research Committees on gender issues are healthy and active, and women are a lot more involved in managing IPSA research committees in general, holding more than a third of chair positions. Women are also increasingly the recipients of IPSA awards, and the *International Political Science Review* (IPSR) has had five female editors over the last 20 years. The percentage of women as *IPSR* authors also reached the 40% range for three consecutive years, a first in history.

Conclusion

Our analysis of the 2017 survey and trends in national PSAs, as well as IPSA, suggests that there has been progress in the representation of women as members in professional associations of political science, in addition to their presence in the discipline as active and recognized researchers and leaders. While these successes have been uneven, the trend toward greater inclusion has clearly benefited from discussion and implementation of institutional mechanisms attuned to gender equality.