



29th World Congress of Political Science 24-28 July

UNCERTAIN DEMOCRACIES: RETHINKING GOVERNANCE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL SYSTEM



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Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

July 2026

ISSN 0709-6941

IPSA SECRETARIAT

2155 Guy St., Suite ER-731 Montréal,

Québec H3H 2R9 CANADA

T: +1 514 848 8717

info@ipsa.org | www.ipsa.org



ABOUT US

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) has been a cornerstone of the global political science community since its founding in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. As an international non-profit organization, IPSA is dedicated to the advancement of political science by promoting international cooperation, supporting academic freedom, and furthering the inclusiveness and diversity of the discipline. With close to 5,000 individual members, 34 institutional members, and 58 national and regional association members, IPSA brings together political scientists from around the world.

IPSA's governance structure consists of a Council, an Executive Committee (EC) and a dedicated Secretariat. The Council is the highest decision-making body, while the Executive Committee oversees the implementation of policies and strategies. The Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director, manages the day-to-day operations, ensuring the smooth functioning of the Association and the fulfillment of its mission.

IPSA's activities are varied and extensive, including the biennial World Congress of Political Science, Regional Conferences, Summer Schools and Massive Open Access Courses (IPSAMOOC). IPSA also supports 55 Research Committees, publishes scholarly journals and books, and organizes professional development activities. Through these efforts, IPSA facilitates the dissemination of political science research, encourages international collaboration and the professional growth of political scientists at all stages of their careers.

This issue of *Participation*, IPSA's biennial publication, is dedicated to presenting the upcoming World Congress and providing updates on IPSA's activities.



WORLD CONGRESS FEATURES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	4
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5
MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	6
MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS	9
CONGRESS THEME	10
IN MEMORIAM LEONARDO MORLINO	11
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	12-13
GENERAL TRACKS	14-17
REFLECTIONS ON THE CONGRESS THEME	18-23
PLENARY SPEAKERS	24
HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION	25-26
ROME WELCOMES YOU	27-28
PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELING TO ROME	29
CONGRESS VENUE	30
TRANSPORTATION	31

IPSA FEATURES

IPSA EVENTS	32-34
IPSA SUMMER SCHOOLS	35-37
NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS NEWS	38-45
RESEARCH COMMITTEES NEWS	46-64
IPSA AWARDS	65-66





MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

YUKO KASUYA
IPSA PRESIDENT



On behalf of the International Political Science Association, I am honored to invite you to the 2027 World Congress of Political Science in Rome. Held every two years, the World Congress stands at the center of IPSA's life as an association: it is where our members come together to present their work, test their ideas in debate, and carry the results of their research to a truly global audience. For many of us, it is the one moment in the calendar when the discipline gathers in full, across regions, generations, methods and subfields, and when the conversations that matter most to political science happen in the same room. Its plenaries, roundtables, and special sessions are also rare occasions to think alongside some of the field's most influential voices about the forces reshaping political life.

Few cities could host such a gathering more fittingly than Rome. Layering almost three thousand years of history beneath a restless modern capital, it is a place where the past is never quite past. For political scientists, that resonance is especially tangible: much of the language we still use, such as republic, citizenship, the rule of law, and the institutions of self-rule, was first worked out here. To ask what democracy and governance should become while meeting in this particular city is a useful reminder that these are old questions, even when their urgency feels new. Italy's cultural richness and its legendary table

need no advertisement, and neither does the generosity of its hosts. The Congress will also bring us into close contact with Italy's lively and accomplished community of political scientists. This promises to be one of the largest and most vibrant Congresses we have held.

The interval since our last meeting has been anything but quiet. Democracies are operating in a context of deepening uncertainty: a more contested, multipolar international order, fast-moving technological change, economic and ecological strain, and persistent pressure on both domestic institutions and the machinery of global governance. The polarizing and autocratizing currents that concerned us before have not faded. At the same time, we are witnessing the capacity of societies to adapt, push back, and rebuild democratic life. Each of these developments sets a demanding agenda for those of us who study them.

This is the spirit in which we chose the Congress theme *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*. It asks us to do two things at once: understand where today's uncertainty comes from and reconsider how governance, within states and across them, can be made more effective, more legitimate, and more durable. The program is by no means confined to this theme; the full breadth of the discipline is represented across its tracks and panels. But

our shared responsibility runs through all of it: to analyze these questions with rigor, to sharpen public and scholarly understanding of them, and to offer ideas that can genuinely improve how political systems and their institutions work, as our discipline pursues these aims through argument, evidence, and collective inquiry.

A Congress of this scale is the work of many hands. I am grateful to the Program Co-Chairs, whose vision has produced an ambitious and intellectually generous program. I thank the Local Organizing Committee and our regional partners, whose careful preparation will allow the scholarly exchange to unfold smoothly across a rich array of panels and tracks, and the IPSA Secretariat, whose steady work makes an event of this complexity possible at all. My thanks go, too, to the many colleagues who agreed to chair sessions or to serve as discussants; their willingness to give their time and judgment is what turns a program into a conversation. I hope you will bring to Rome not only your research but your curiosity—intellectual and otherwise—and your readiness to listen, disagree well, and learn from one another. Together, in Rome, we will give voice to political science as a global community. I look forward to welcoming you there.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KIM FONTAINE-SKRONSKI

IPSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is a pleasure to welcome you to this edition of *Participation* at an especially meaningful time for IPSA as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of IPSA's permanent Secretariat in Montréal (Canada). With the support of Concordia University and Montréal International, the IPSA Secretariat has become a stable professional home for the Association and a central point of coordination for our members, Research Committees, publications, events, and partnerships around the world.

We had the privilege of marking this anniversary through several events in Montréal and Ottawa in 2026. At the Université de Montréal, during the Congress of the Société québécoise de science politique (SQSP), IPSA launched the *IPSA Companion to Political Science*, an open-access volume designed to make key concepts in political science accessible to students, scholars, and practitioners. At Concordia University and, a few days later, during the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Conference at the University of Ottawa, IPSA convened roundtables on "Canada and its Transatlantic Relations", with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) Canada. Together, these events highlighted the Secretariat's

strong roots in Québec and Canada and reaffirmed IPSA's role in promoting international scholarly exchange.

This anniversary is also an opportunity to recognize how much IPSA has grown. In 2025, the Association reached yet another record high of 4,936 individual members, alongside 58 collective members and 32 institutional members. IPSA's 55 Research Committees also continue to play a central role in the life of the Association, encouraging academic collaboration across regions, subfields, and methodological approaches. These numbers are more than indicators of growth: they reflect an increasingly diverse global community committed to advancing political science across regions, languages, methods, and fields of inquiry.

The Secretariat's role is to support this community with professionalism and consistency, while helping to implement the priorities set by the President and the Executive Committee. Guided by their leadership, this work includes creating new initiatives for members and Research Committees, supporting IPSA's publications and academic programs, expanding opportunities for regional and international exchange, and continuing to make IPSA activities as accessible as possible in a context of rising costs.

These achievements are made possible thanks to the dedication of the Secretariat team and the close collaboration of IPSA's President, Executive Committee, editors, partners, and many volunteers.

As always, this publication offers an opportunity to look ahead to the next IPSA World Congress of Political Science and to introduce the people, ideas, and initiatives that will shape this major gathering of our global community. The upcoming World Congress in Rome will be an important moment for political scientists from around the world to come together, exchange research, strengthen professional networks, and reflect collectively on the major political challenges of our time. I hope this edition gives readers not only useful information about the World Congress and IPSA's broader activities, but also a sense of the energy and commitment that sustain our work between Congresses. I am grateful to all those who contribute to this shared mission and look forward to continuing this work together.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



FRANCA RONCAROLO

CO-CHAIR

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI SCIENZA
POLITICA (SISP), ITALY



RAFFAELE MARCHETTI

CO-CHAIR

LUISS GUIDO CARLI, ITALY

It is our great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 2027 IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Rome, a city that has long been a crossroads of cultures, institutions, ideas, and political traditions.

Hosting the IPSA World Congress in Italy is a source of great pride for the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), co-chaired by the Italian Political Science Association (Società Italiana di Scienza Politica, SISP) and Luiss Guido Carli. Together, SISP and Luiss are delighted to welcome the global political science community to Rome and to contribute to one of the most important opportunities for scholarly exchange, dialogue, and collaboration in our discipline.

Rome is not only a city of extraordinary historical significance, it is also a living political space, where the legacies of the past constantly interact with the challenges of the present. From the institutions of the Roman Republic and Empire to the development of modern constitutionalism, from the experience of European integration to contemporary debates on democracy, governance, rights, security, and international order, Rome offers an inspiring setting for political scientists from all over the world. Rome today is not only the capital city

of Italy but also the home of the Vatican, and important international organizations such as the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The 2027 Congress will take place at a time of profound global transformation. Political systems are being tested by polarization, democratic backsliding, geopolitical tensions, social inequalities, technological change, climate pressures, and new forms of conflict and cooperation. In this context, the role of political science is more important than ever. Our discipline provides the concepts, methods, and comparative perspectives needed to understand complexity, question assumptions, and imagine more effective responses to the challenges shaping our societies.

In conjunction with the IPSA World Congress, SISP will hold its 2027 Congress at Luiss University in Rome on 23-24 July 2027. On 24 July, immediately following the conclusion of the SISP Congress and prior to the official opening of the IPSA World Congress, a dedicated pre-conference event focusing on global challenges and domestic change in the Mediterranean region will provide participants

with an additional opportunity for networking, intellectual exchange, and the development of future collaborations. The programme will include a keynote talk, a roundtable discussion, and a light reception. Further details about the pre-conference event will be made available soon on the SISP and IPSA websites.

The scientific contribution of the LOC to the IPSA World Congress will also be reflected in a broad set of LOC tracks, designed to engage with some of the most pressing transformations of contemporary politics. Taken together, these tracks express the ambition of the LOC to connect Italian, European, and global debates, while encouraging dialogue across subfields, methods, regions, and generations of scholars.

We hope that the Rome Congress will offer a stimulating platform for rigorous academic discussion, as well as an opportunity to build lasting networks, collaborations, and friendships. We also hope that participants will have the chance to experience Rome beyond the Congress venue. The city offers a unique and timeless combination of history, art, culture, and food, while Italy as a whole provides an extraordinary cultural landscape, with UNESCO World Heritage sites and historic cities within easy reach by train.

We look forward to welcoming you to Italy, to Rome, and to a Congress that we hope will inspire meaningful conversations, new collaborations, and shared reflections on the future of politics and political science.

See you in Rome! See you at Luiss! And see you at the 2027 IPSA World Congress!

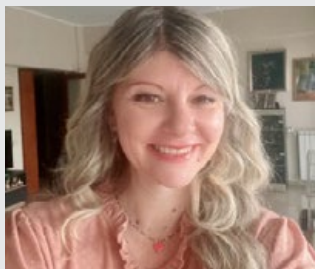


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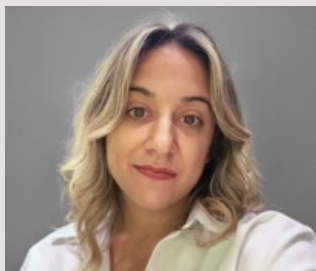
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MESSAGE FROM THE **PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS**

It is our great pleasure to invite the global political science community to gather in Rome for the 29th IPSA World Congress of Political Science.

This Congress will be dedicated to the memory of Leonardo Morlino, IPSA past president and one of Italy's most distinguished political scientists, whose pioneering work on comparative politics and the quality of democracy has profoundly shaped the field. In recognition of his scholarly legacy, the Congress will focus on the timely and pressing theme *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*.

In a world characterized by rapid geopolitical transformations, economic disruptions, and technological revolutions, democracy stands at a critical juncture. Traditional governance structures are increasingly challenged by the rise of populism, digital authoritarianism, the erosion of social rights and public services, growing migration flows, and the emergence of increasingly diverse and multiethnic societies.

At the same time, the global distribution of power is undergoing profound change, with significant consequences for democratic governance at both national and international levels. These developments include the rise of new global actors, major political shifts in influential countries, the weakening of multilateralism, the growing crisis of international organizations, and the accelerating impact of the artificial intelligence revolution. Moreover, rising economic inequality—within and across countries—continues to threaten the quality, resilience, and legitimacy of democratic systems.

Against this backdrop, the World Congress will highlight the urgent need to understand the complex and unprecedented challenges confronting contemporary democracies and to explore innovative approaches to governance capable of addressing these transformative changes.



VANESSA ELIAS DE OLIVEIRA
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF ABC, BRAZIL

Through plenary sessions, keynote lectures, panel discussions, roundtables, and informal café gatherings, participants will engage in a comprehensive examination of democratic governance at the local, national, and global levels in the twenty-first century. The Congress program will encompass a wide range of themes related to democratic innovation, including deliberative democracy, democratic monitoring, participatory governance, and initiatives designed to strengthen civic engagement and political participation. Particular attention will be devoted to understanding how these innovations can contribute to the renewal and revitalization of democratic life.

Additional topics will include the role of emerging political actors and processes in diverse contexts; the adaptation of democratic institutions to the challenges and opportunities created by artificial intelligence; the influence of social media on public opinion and political behavior; the growing involvement of private actors in democratic decision-making; the spread of misinformation and its consequences for democratic processes; and the development of more inclusive institutions and public policies that reflect the realities and social needs of the twenty-first century.

Throughout the Congress, participants will have the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research, exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world, and create, strengthen, and expand international scholarly networks across all areas of political science. Distinguished keynote speakers, leading scholars, and prominent public figures will provide



FRANCESCA LONGO
PROGRAM CO-CHAIR
UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA, ITALY

valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing democratic governance today, inspiring innovative approaches to strengthening democratic institutions and practices in an era of global uncertainty.

Participants will also explore how contemporary political, economic, technological, and social transformations are reshaping governance, public policy, citizen engagement, and governmental accountability. Discussions will address both the theoretical and practical dimensions of democratic renewal, with particular attention to how democratic institutions can become more responsive, resilient, and representative of increasingly diverse societies.

We warmly invite political scientists from around the world to submit individual papers, closed and open panels, and roundtable proposals employing a wide range of methodological and theoretical approaches. As Program Co-Chairs, we have carefully designed a program that reflects IPSA's longstanding commitment to inclusiveness, regional representation, diversity across career stages, and gender balance.

Do not miss this opportunity to be part of the world's largest gathering of political scientists and to contribute to advancing the discipline on a global scale. We look forward to welcoming you to Rome for the 29th IPSA World Congress of Political Science.

CONGRESS THEME



UNCERTAIN DEMOCRACIES: RETHINKING GOVERNANCE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL SYSTEM

In a world marked by rapid and uncertain geopolitical shifts, economic disruptions, and technological revolutions, democracy finds itself at a crossroads. Traditional governance structures are under strain as a result of rising populism, digital authoritarianism, the erosion of social rights and public services provisions, the rising tide of human migration and the consequent growing of multiethnic societies. What's more, non-state actors now assume many of the functions previously provided by states and public institutions. As a result, private actors are wielding greater political influence, albeit without the accountability typically demanded of their public counterparts.

Furthermore, the global power structure is undergoing dramatic changes, with a host of factors exerting a strong and direct effect on global and national democracy. These include the emergence of new international actors, tectonic changes in the political landscape in powerful and influential countries, specifically with regards to key global issues, the weakening of multilateralism, the crisis of international organizations, and the influence of populism and extreme nationalist movements on global climate change and immigration policies. Likewise, the quality of democracy is under threat from rising economic inequality, both nationally and globally.

These challenges have given rise to an erosion of public trust in democratic institutions and led to an anti-democratic populist backlash in consolidated democracies and difficulties in consolidating emerging democracies.

The rapid advancement of the "AI revolution" also poses significant and unprecedented challenges to traditional democracy. Its potential to generate misinformation and deception and to impact democratic processes is far-reaching, yet states are ill-prepared to deal with the consequences. That said, AI tools can also be viewed as opportunities for innovation and for addressing issues that conventional politics has failed to adequately resolve.

Democracies continue to rely on centuries-old institutions, processes, procedures and practices. Can democracy and its traditional methods endure amid ongoing uncertainties, or are new institutional and political models required to meet current challenges?

As nations navigate an increasingly multipolar and changing world, key questions arise: How must democracy evolve to remain relevant and resilient in the new global order? How

can democracy refine its strategies in response to the complexities of national and international society? Is democratic governance of the international system even possible?

We actively encourage proposals and dialogues on these topics with the aim of identifying new categories and frameworks for understanding the current context, debating innovative models of democratic governance, examining current transformations within national democracies, recognizing potential avenues for the modernization of democracy, and identifying democratic governance solutions on a global scale.

From this perspective, the 2027 IPSA World Congress calls the political science community to carry out systematic analysis and rethink local, national and global democratic governance in the twenty-first century. Discussion topics will include innovations in democracy, such as deliberative democracy, and efforts to monitor democracy and participatory processes that promote civic participation in political decisions. These and other forms of democratic innovation should be analyzed with an eye to fostering and renewing political participation. Additional topics of debate will include the role of new actors and processes in distinct political contexts, the recalibration of democratic systems in response to the impact of artificial intelligence on governance, the influence of social media in shaping public opinion, the increasing interference of private actors in national democratic procedures, the spread of misinformation and its impact on democratic processes, and the urgent need for inclusive institutions and policies that reflect twenty-first century realities and social needs.

The conference invites the global political science community to discuss these topics, explore innovations in democratic institutions and practices in response to emerging global challenges to democracy, and determine how to achieve more resilient and democratic societies around the world. Participants will look at how these factors are reshaping politics, public policies, public engagement and government accountability, offering perspectives on how societies can adapt democratic institutions to better reflect the needs of diverse communities, with a focus on both the theoretical and practical dimensions of democratic renewal.

Vanessa Elias de Oliveira and Francesca Longo,
29th IPSA World Congress Program Chairs



The 29th IPSA World Congress of Political Science will honor the memory of Professor Leonardo Morlino, IPSA Past President (2009-2012) and a pioneering scholar whose work on democracy and democratization has had a profound impact on political science. Prof. Morlino passed away on 17 June 2025, shortly before the opening of the 28th IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Seoul.

To recognize his contributions to IPSA and to political science, several special events will be organized during the IPSA World Congress in Rome to pay tribute to his scholarly legacy and the lasting influence of his work.

29th IPSA WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN HONOR OF LEONARDO MORLINO

Leonardo Morlino (born 28 June 1947) was a prominent Italian political scientist specializing in comparative politics. He was Emeritus Professor of Political Science and Director of the Research Center on Democracies and Democratizations at Luiss Guido Carli in Rome.

Prof. Morlino earned his PhD in political science from the University of Naples in 1970 and furthered his academic training through several programs in political science and sociology at Yale University, the Cini Foundation in Venice, and the Centro di Studi Economico e Sociali in Milan. He also participated in the first Summer School in Comparative Politics led by former IPSA President Stein Rokkan in Cologne.

Prof. Morlino held various faculty positions at the University of Florence and Luiss Guido Carli, as well as professorships abroad. In 2002-2003, he was the Bechtel Visiting Professor at Stanford's Graduate School of Business; in 1995, visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution; and in 1989-1990, he served as a NATO Fellow at the Center for European Studies, Stanford University. His academic credentials also included stints as the Monte dei Paschi Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford (2010); the Jemolo Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford (1998 and 2007); visiting professor at the Juan March Institute, Madrid (1995-1996); and visiting professor at the Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris (1993-1995, 2006, 2009, 2013). His research spanned Southern and Eastern Europe, with a focus on democratization, the quality of democracy, and the role of international actors in democratic transitions.

Author of over 45 books and more than 230 journal articles and book chapters, published in English, French, German, Spanish, Hungarian, Chinese, Mongolian, and Japanese, Prof. Morlino's most recent books include *Equality, Freedom, and Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2020); *Comparison: A Methodological Introduction for the Social Sciences* (Barbara Budrich Publisher, 2018); *The Impact of Economic Crisis on South European Democracies* (Palgrave, 2017); *How Economic Crisis Changes Democracy: Evidence from Southern Europe* (Palgrave, 2017, with F. Raniolo); *The Quality of Democracies in Latin America* (International IDEA, 2016); *Changes for Democracy: Actors, Structures, Processes* (Oxford University Press, 2011); *Democratization and the European Union: Comparing Central and Eastern European Post-Communist Countries* (Routledge, 2010, with W. Sadurski); *Democracias y Democratizaciones* (CIS, 2008); *International Actors, Democratization and the Rule of Law: Anchoring Democracy?* (Routledge, 2008, with A. Magen); *Introduzione alla ricerca comparata* (Il Mulino, 2005), and *Democracy Between Consolidation and Crisis: Parties, Groups, and Citizens in Southern Europe* (Oxford University Press, 1998).

A member of the IPSA Executive Committee from 2003 to 2006, Prof. Morlino served as First Vice-President from 2006 to 2009 and then as IPSA President from 2009 to 2012. He also co-edited IPSA's *International Encyclopedia of Political Science* (Sage, 2011) with Bertrand Badie and Dirk Berg-Schlosser.



THE 2027 IPSA WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE - PROGRAM STRUCTURE



ROKSOLANA BOBYK
PROGRAM, REGISTRATION
AND AWARDS OFFICER

The 2027 IPSA World Congress will be a fully in-person event in Rome and will feature a diverse program on the theme *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*. Leadership for

this year's academic program is spearheaded by Program Co-Chairs Vanessa Elias de Oliveira (Brazil) and Francesca Longo (Italy). Organized in close collaboration with Luiss Guido Carli and the Italian Political Science Association (Società Italiana di Scienza Politica, SISP), the upcoming Congress is dedicated to honoring the legacy of Leonardo Morlino, IPSA President from 2009 to 2012. The Congress will provide an excellent opportunity to present your work, network with scholars from around the world, and engage with a vibrant European and international academic community. Submissions for panels and papers covering all areas of political science are welcome.

The 2027 Congress program is organised as follows.

PROGRAM TRACKS	PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND MAIN EVENTS
Congress Theme Track:* Panels on the theme of <i>Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System</i>.. General Tracks:* Tracks encompassing general areas of the discipline, organized by track chairs who have been invited by the Program Co-Chairs. Local Organizing Committee Tracks:* Tracks organized by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). Research Committee Tracks:* IPSA's Research Committees organize panels related to their field of interest. <i>*Panel/paper submissions are open to all.</i>	Plenaries: Keynote speaker lectures. Special Events: High-level academic roundtables on critical global themes including AI, academic freedom and public policy, will take place, along with a prominent presidential roundtable and a special tribute session dedicated to Leonardo Morlino. Professional Development Cafés: Interactive, expert-led sessions on research methods, academic publishing, AI in teaching, and networking for early-career scholars. Awards: Lectures presented by recipients of IPSA awards, followed by award ceremonies. Social Events: Social and cultural events with a local theme, including opening and closing ceremonies.

All presentations are held in-person in one of IPSA's official languages: English and French. Presentations in LOC tracks may be held in Italian. Paper presentations within closed panels may be presented in another language, provided that all panel members agree.

We invite you to bring your research to the forefront of global political discourse. Submissions for panels and papers are now open for the 29th IPSA World Congress of Political Science, accepting proposals until 4 November 2026. Visit wc2027.ipsa.org to explore the submission guidelines, key deadlines, and to join us in shaping the future of the discipline.



**CT - CONGRESS THEME | TRACK****Panels on the Congress theme:**

Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System

GL - GENERAL | 14 TRACKS

GL01	International Relations
GL02	Policy Process Research
GL03	Comparative Politics
GL04	Human Mobility
GL05	Asian Politics
GL06	African Politics
GL07	Middle East Politics
GL08	Mediterranean Politics
GL09	Politics and Political Science in times of AI
GL10	Rethinking Political Participation
GL11	Judicial Power and Democracy
GL12	Multilevel Governance
GL13	The Power of Communication
GL14	Global South in World Politics

LOC - LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE | 11 TRACKS

LOC01	Pluralizing Global Politics in Security, Diplomacy, and Economic Affairs: North, South, East, West
LOC02	International Disorder and Uncertainty: Europe, North America, and the Future of Global Governance
LOC03	Transformation of Politics and Democratic Resilience Across Online and Offline Arenas in Europe
LOC04	Environmental Politics and (De)politicization of Climate Change in Europe
LOC05	Social Movements in Europe: Comparative and Transnational Dynamics
LOC06	Gender and Feminist Politics in the Crises of European Democracies
LOC07	Public Opinion and Electoral Democracy in Europe
LOC08	Europe and Asia in a Transforming Geo-Political Order: Resistance and Adaptation
LOC09	Public Action, Policy Dynamics and Governance in Europe
LOC10	Populist and Far-Right Politics in Europe and Beyond
LOC11	Italian Politics in a Southern European Comparative Perspective

RC - RESEARCH COMMITTEES | 55 TRACKS

RC01	Concepts and Methods
RC02	Political Elites
RC03	European Unification
RC04	Visual Politics
RC05	Comparative Studies on Local Government and Politics
RC06	Political Sociology
RC07	Women and Politics in the Global South
RC08	Legislative Specialists
RC09	Comparative Judicial Studies
RC10	Electronic Democracy
RC11	Science and Politics
RC12	Biology and Politics
RC13	Democratization in Comparative Perspective
RC14	Politics and Ethnicity
RC15	Political and Cultural Geography
RC16	Socio-Political Pluralism
RC17	Comparative Public Opinion
RC18	Asian and Pacific Studies
RC19	Gender Politics and Policy
RC20	Political Finance and Political Corruption
RC21	Political Socialization and Education
RC22	Political Communication
RC23	Elections, Citizens and Parties
RC24	Armed Forces and Society
RC25	Politics of Health Policy
RC26	Human Rights
RC27	Structure and Organization of Government
RC28	Comparative Federalism and Multilevel Governance
RC29	Political Psychology
RC30	Comparative Public Policy
RC31	Political Philosophy
RC32	Public Policy and Administration
RC33	The Study of Political Science as a Discipline
RC34	Quality of Democracy
RC35	Technology and Development
RC36	Political Power
RC37	Rethinking Political Development
RC38	Politics and Business
RC39	Welfare States and Developing Societies
RC40	New World Orders?
RC41	Geopolitics
RC42	Security, Integration and Unification
RC43	Religion and Politics
RC44	Security, Conflict and Democratization
RC45	Quantitative International Politics
RC46	Migration and Citizenship
RC47	Local-Global Relations
RC48	Administrative Culture
RC49	Socialism, Capitalism and Democracy
RC50	The Politics of Language
RC51	International Political Economy
RC52	Climate Security and Planetary Politics
RC53	Indigenous Politics
RC54	Latin American Politics
RC55	Global Peaceful Change



THE 2027 IPSA WORLD CONGRESS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE – **GENERAL TRACKS**

GL01 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Chairs: Indrajit Roy and Janina Onuki

The ongoing reconfiguration of the world order has spurred heated debates across disciplines over the nature and durability of the changing global system. Key features of this reconfiguration include the global diffusion of economic power, technological innovations that not only offer opportunities for radical disruption by diverse actors but also entrench old cleavages between haves and have-nots, and revisionist ambitions by states vying for superpower status. This systemic transformation finds resonances at regional, national and local scales and involves non-state actors. It also demands reassessment of our theories and practices of international relations.

A number of frames have been proposed by analysts and commentators to make sense of our turbulent times. Some scholars routinely invoke the return of 'multipolarity', 'spheres of influence' and 'great power rivalry'. Others highlight the resilience of the liberal international order even as they concede its fragmentation and highlight its co-existence with other worldviews. Yet others envisage the emergence of plural regional and sectoral orders. For some analysts, such pluralization offers the scope for the expression of diverse lifeworlds, whereas others worry that these exact same processes exacerbate inequalities, spawn resentment, and provide fertile ground for autocrats and populists of various hues. Recognizing the multiplicity and complexity of our times, a few scholars have begun to advocate the perspective of multiplexity to better understand the changing global system. GL01 invites scholars from across diverse traditions in the study of international relations to critically reflect on prevailing perspectives and advance new ideas that can contribute to scholarly understanding of our transforming world.

GL02 POLICY PROCESS RESEARCH

Chairs: Michelle Fernandez and Joseluis Mendez

The Policy Process Research track aims to bring together scholars interested in understanding how public policies are formulated, implemented, transformed, or dismantled across different political and institutional contexts.

The track welcomes theoretical, empirical, and comparative contributions that examine the actors, institutions, ideas, and power dynamics shaping public policymaking

processes at local, regional, national, and transnational levels. Particular attention is given to the interaction between politics and public policy, including how democratic institutions, bureaucracies, interest groups, social movements, experts, or international organizations influence policy processes. The track also seeks to foster dialogue between well-known and emerging approaches in policy studies, including policy design, implementation, governance, capacities or dismantling, as well as comparative public policy analysis. In recent years, the field has increasingly engaged with challenges such as democratic backsliding, crises, inequality, digitalization, artificial intelligence, and climate change, highlighting the need to rethink policy processes in rapidly changing environments. By encouraging interdisciplinary and globally oriented perspectives, the track aims to strengthen international debates on the nature of public policies resulting from or shaping contemporary states, democracies, and societies. Some suggested sub-themes include:

- » Policy implementation and street-level bureaucracy;
- » Democratic backsliding and public policy;
- » Policy dismantling and institutional change;
- » Bureaucracy, political process, and public policy;
- » Governance and policy networks;
- » Public policy and inequalities;
- » Evidence, expertise, and policymaking;
- » Crisis management and policy responses;
- » Digital governance and algorithmic policymaking;
- » Comparative policy process research;
- » Federalism and multilevel governance;
- » Participation, deliberation, and co-production in the policy process.

GL03 COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Chairs: Martín D'Alessandro and Fernanda Odilla

The erosion of political alignments, alongside cultural and digital transformations and recurring global economic turmoil, has increasingly challenged the performance and functioning of contemporary political systems. While traditional institutions and political actors face growing pressure to respond to these changes, new dynamics such as deglobalization, rising polarization, and illiberalism are emerging and consolidating across different contexts. At the same time, democratic institutions, together with their established governance, accountability, and rule-



of-law mechanisms, often appear insufficient to manage the multiple political transformations, conflicts, and crises affecting societies today. Elections, moreover, seem increasingly unable to generate effective representation or clear political mandates. This scenario highlights the need to strengthen and innovate the theoretical and methodological tools of comparative political research in order to better understand the contemporary challenges confronting democracies worldwide.

This track welcomes proposals that enrich and advance our understanding of institutional politics and its main contemporary challenges from a comparative perspective. We invite submissions addressing both longstanding and emerging issues, as well as contributions offering new conceptual, theoretical, methodological, or empirical insights into any subfield of institutions, elections, and comparative politics at transnational, regional, national, and subnational levels. Relevant topics include, but are not limited to, comparisons of political and historical processes (e.g., populism, revolutions, conflicts, nationalism, democratization and autocratization, leadership styles), as well as studies on gender, representation and trust, challenges to academic freedom, political religion, corruption and violence, political ethics, and citizens' attitudes and behaviour. We also welcome panels and papers examining continuities and transformations across both traditional and emerging dimensions of contemporary politics.

GL04 HUMAN MOBILITY

Chairs: Iole Pina Fontana and Carmelo Cattafi

This track offers an interdisciplinary space to critically examine human mobility as a phenomenon that strains traditional governance, generates responses of conflict and cooperation, and poses urgent challenges regarding rights, social justice, and coexistence in increasingly diverse societies. States, civil society, organizations, and migrants converge within this space.

Governance structures are under strain due to populism, digital authoritarianism, the erosion of social rights and public services, the increase in migration flows, and the growth of multiethnic societies.

We invite the global political science community to discuss: (1) global mobility governance under pressure (digital surveillance, populism, and welfare state retrenchment); (2) borders as dynamic spaces (securitization, humanitarianism, externalization, and grassroots resistance); (3) multiethnic coexistence (integration, social cohesion, and the politics of diversity); and (4) mobility challenges in the face of the "AI revolution".

We seek research that includes non-state and transnational actors and addresses policy-relevant questions on rights, justice, (im)mobility and cooperation, including perspectives addressing different regional contexts from both Global North and Global South. We particularly welcome studies on digital authoritarianism and mobility, illiberal trends in migration and mobility policies, civil society strategies for inclusion, and innovative governance models that

transcend nationalist responses. This track aims to generate just and sustainable solutions for human mobility governance in an era of global strain.

GL05 ASIAN POLITICS

Chairs: Julio Teehankee and Haruko Satoh

As global democratic decline accelerates, Asia increasingly reflects both the fragility and diversity of contemporary democratic experiences. The region encompasses a wide spectrum of regime types—from liberal democracies to electoral autocracies—with many countries occupying a contested "grey zone" between democratic and authoritarian rule. Recent years have witnessed significant democratic backsliding, including growing pressures on freedom of expression, association, political participation, and electoral integrity. At the same time, the democracy-autocracy divide has become an important dimension of geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific.

This track invites panel and paper proposals that critically examine the varieties of democracy in Asia and the regional dynamics shaping governance, development, and security. Contributions may explore the drivers of autocratization, the resilience of democratic institutions and practices, and the role of civil society and political actors in resisting democratic erosion. The track also welcomes analyses of alternative or distinctly Asian pathways to democracy, taking into account historical, cultural, and institutional contexts that differentiate the region from dominant Western models.

Both theoretical and empirical contributions, including comparative and country-specific studies, are encouraged. The track aims to foster dialogue on the future of democracy in Asia and the prospects for democratic renewal amid ongoing regional transformations.

GL06 AFRICAN POLITICS

Chairs: Kgothatso Shai and Nadine Machikou

As Africa fast approaches the 7th decade of independence from formal European colonial rule, its contemporary politics remains a fertile ground of research by academics and practitioners emanating from different academic and social persuasions. The prevailing discourse on this subject produces Africa as a complex ontological and geo-strategic space whose politics is not uniformly understood, partly due to the over-use of Eurocentric theoretical and analytical tools. It is also apparent that African politics can be well understood when located within a historical context. Combined, lessons from the past and present African politics should assist in charting a better future for Africa as envisaged by the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063. Unfortunately, literature on African politics is parochial and fragmented, thus making it difficult to rely on it to make informed decision-making. In the desire to close the gap between political theory and reality, the track on African politics calls for conceptual and empirical contributions that draw on the theories from the Global South to explore Africa's political systems, political economy, governance and international relations. Single case studies and/or



comparative studies that paint an alternative explanation and understanding of pertinent issues in African politics are welcome.

GL07 MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

Chairs: Hasret Dikici Bilgin and Francesco Cavatorta

The track on Middle East Politics aims to bring together panels and papers focusing on the politics in the Middle East and North Africa. Panels and papers may engage with both issues and country cases in the region, including, though not limited to, social movements, civil society, governments, elections, political parties and elites, foreign policy, and political economy. Papers should clarify their research methodology and delineate their scope clearly. Comparative case studies are encouraged.

GL08 MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS

Chairs: Sarah Wolff and Stefania Panebianco

The Mediterranean region exemplifies the broader global crisis of democracy, and the consolidation of authoritarianism particularly since the Arab uprisings. The region's trajectory is also marked by a global shift from the democratization efforts of the 2000s and the Arab uprisings toward a pragmatic transactionalism that prioritizes stability over the risks of authoritarian consolidation, a trend central to the congress's focus on uncertain democracies. Global and regional powers—Russia, China, Israel, Iran, and Gulf states—also compete for influence, often sidelining the EU and US, whose engagement remains inconsistent despite initiatives like the Pact for the Mediterranean.

This track interrogates how political actors and non-state actors—hybrid actors, diasporas, private sector, and transnational networks—reshape governance and conflict resolution, challenging traditional state-centric models. It examines how institutions, norms, and historical legacies interact with these actors to help us to rethink democratic resilience in times of world order interregnum. Next to analyzing the Mediterranean's geopolitical dynamics, the track contributes to the broader debate on whether democracy can adapt its institutions and practices to meet 21st-century challenges; from the rise of digital authoritarianism to the erosion of multilateralism.

GL09 POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE IN TIMES OF AI

Chairs: John Ishiyama and Valentina Reda

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the conditions under which politics is organized, governed, represented, and studied, as well as the ways political science is practiced, researched, and taught.

The integration of platforms, data infrastructures, generative AI, and computational systems is transforming political communication, policymaking, public administration, political participation, and relations between citizens, institutions, markets, technological actors, and teaching and learning. From algorithmic governance and platform power to digital sovereignty and geopolitical competition over AI infrastructures, these developments are redefining democratic and non-democratic politics.

AI is also transforming political science itself, reshaping the production, analysis, and communication of political knowledge, and the teaching of the discipline. AI-assisted methods and computational tools are changing research practices, scholarly communication, and academic publishing, while also impacting curricula, pedagogical models, learning environments, and disciplinary training.

The track welcomes theoretical and empirical contributions from various disciplinary and methodological perspectives. Relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- » Algorithmic governance and political power;
- » Representation, participation, and AI-mediated public discourse;
- » Institutions, decision-making, and technological actors in AI-driven environments;
- » AI infrastructures and digital sovereignty;
- » Political science as a discipline in the age of AI;
- » Political knowledge production and research;
- » Scholarly communication and academic publishing;
- » Teaching political science in AI-mediated contexts.

GL10 RETHINKING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Chairs: Kenneth McElwain and Rossana Sampugnaro

Political participation is undergoing profound transformation across democratic, authoritarian, and hybrid political systems. The GL10 "Rethinking Political Participation" track invites research that re-examines traditional forms of participation, such as voting and public protest. On the one hand, the track seeks to investigate how the meaning and practice of political participation are being redefined; on the other hand, it aims to explore evolving modes of political action, including online activism, civic engagement, and transnational mobilization. We are particularly interested in how technological and social change are reshaping who participates, how participation occurs, and the relationship between electoral politics, civic engagement, and collective action.

These transformations may be especially important for understanding how younger generations engage with politics in a changing media and communication landscape. More broadly, the track examines the implications of changing patterns of participation for democratic governance and political representation.

Under what circumstances might novel forms of participation enhance accountability, representation, and inclusion? Conversely, under what conditions might they exacerbate polarization, distrust, or political disengagement? Are these changes strengthening or weakening democratic governance? We welcome comparative and interdisciplinary research using qualitative case studies, quantitative cross-national analyses, experiments, and mixed-methods approaches.

GL11 JUDICIAL POWER AND DEMOCRACY

Chairs: Azul A. Aguiar Aguiar and Umut Korkut

In recent years, courts in different regions of the world have faced growing challenges as democracies experience backsliding and processes of autocratization. This track invites the submission of papers that explore the relationship between courts and political regimes, with particular



attention to how, when, and why judges and courts contribute to either curbing or deepening democratic backsliding. Under what conditions do judges defend the rule of law and safeguard democratic principles? What strategies do courts use to limit the concentration of power in the executive? When do these efforts succeed, and when do they fail? The track also welcomes contributions addressing recent and underexplored topics in judicial politics, including judicial populism, gender parity in the judiciary, judicial communication, public perceptions of the judiciary, corruption within judicial institutions, legal mobilization, and the practice of lawfare. Overall, this track provides a platform for critical reflection on the judiciary's capacity to uphold democratic norms and institutions in a time of global democratic decline.

GL12 MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

Chairs: Klaus Frey and Jale Tosun

The General Track on "Multilevel Governance" invites contributions that examine how authority, coordination, and democratic legitimacy are being reconfigured across local, regional, national, and supranational arenas in an increasingly uncertain global context. In line with the theme of the 29th IPSA World Congress *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*, the track explores how democratic institutions and different types of governance arrangements respond to mounting pressures generated by political polarization, territorial inequalities, climate change, geopolitical realignments, digital transformations, migration, and overlapping crises.

The track welcomes theoretical, comparative, and empirical research addressing the institutions, actors, and processes shaping governance across levels/scales under conditions of uncertainty and democratic strain. Themes may include intergovernmental relations, decentralization and recentralization, metropolitan and regional governance, fiscal federalism, policy coordination and integration, democratic innovation, crisis governance, public participation, environmental and climate governance, and the role of international organizations and transnational networks. Contributions examining governance asymmetries, informal arrangements, contested authority, and tensions between democracy, efficiency, and territorial representation are particularly encouraged.

We invite qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, and interdisciplinary approaches from diverse regional perspectives, especially research that advances conceptual innovation and promotes dialogue between Global North and Global South experiences.

GL13 THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

Chairs: Viktor Chagas and Rita Marchetti

Although politics and political communication have long been closely intertwined, this relationship has gained prominence recently due to changes in election campaigns, news coverage, institutional and governmental public communication, the rise of digital platforms and use of AI in political communication. Despite this, political communication variables remain underexplored within mainstream political science.

This track seeks to address the growing relevance of analyses situated at the intersection of politics and communication. It welcomes contributions concerned with the following topics, among others:

- » Epistemological debates, literature reviews, and meta-analyses in political communication;
- » Ethical challenges in political communication research;
- » Communication strategies of political actors and institutions;
- » Media framing of political issues and agendas;
- » Populism, democratic crises, and political communication;
- » Media capture, media instrumentalization and freedom of speech;
- » Political communication and democratic risks;
- » Political storytelling;
- » Disinformation, extremism, and harmful speech across media environments;
- » Platforms and social media as spaces for political empowerment and civic engagement;
- » The role of platforms and AI in political communication;
- » Autocratization and the media in the digital age;
- » Strategic repertoires employed by political actors, parties, and interest groups to influence public opinion.

Contributions from different disciplinary traditions and methodological approaches are encouraged.

GL14 GLOBAL SOUTH IN WORLD POLITICS

Chairs: Guilherme Casarões and Gabriela Ippolito-O'Donnell

We invite scholars to submit papers analyzing the role of the Global South in the reconfiguration of contemporary world politics. Contributions should critically examine how state and non-state actors from the Global South navigate geopolitical uncertainties, challenge global power structures, and transform current international hierarchies. The Global South is understood not only as a geographical or economic category, but also as a political and discursive space shaped by histories of colonialism, struggles for self-determination, and ongoing demands for a more just and representative world order.

Suggested themes include the definitions and limits of the category "Global South" in international relations and its multiple geographies; the agency of the Global South in the face of climate change, democratic crises, technology dominance, and new trends in the global political economy; alternative narratives on world order, development, and South-South cooperation; as well as postcolonial and decolonial perspectives on global governance and democratic representation. We also welcome critical reflections on the tensions and diversities within the Global South, including the role of regional powers, emerging economies, social movements, and transnational dynamics.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONGRESS THEME

CIVIL LAWSUITS: A NEW WAY OF LEGAL CORRUPTION?



CHRISTIAN HUMMERT
CYBERAGENTUR, GERMANY



FERNANDA ODILLA
UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, ITALY

Across contemporary political systems, the distinction between legal and illicit practices is becoming increasingly blurred, as governance frameworks struggle to keep pace with a wide range of strategies designed to circumvent regulations and exploit legal loopholes. This trend threatens to undermine conventional regulatory categories, risk eroding public trust in the rule of law, and weakens the judiciary's capacity to hold abuses of power accountable—thereby degrading the quality of democratic institutions already under strain. These developments resonate strongly with the theme of the 2027 IPSA World Congress *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*, as the growing ambiguity surrounding what is legal, illicit, or socially tolerated raises fundamental questions about integrity, accountability and the resilience of democratic institutions.

One arena in which this blurring is particularly concerning is the legal sector itself. “Sham litigation”, also known as vexatious litigation, has increasingly been recognized as a potential means of circumventing anti-money laundering (AML) regulations. Beyond its intent to threaten, harass, annoy, or burden others through the legal system, it can also involve the fabrication of disputes and the manipulation of legal processes. In such cases, lawyers may be instructed to pursue claims in which the court judgment or settlement serves as a front for transferring illicit funds or assets, disguised as legitimate legal transactions.

It is not by chance that the UK Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) issued new guidance in 2025 to help lawyers protect themselves and their firms from the emerging threat of sham litigation (SRA 2025). The SRA guidance cited the case of Narinder Kaur, also known as Nina Tiara, who was sentenced in 2024 to 10 years in prison for exploiting loopholes in var-

ious shops' security and returns policies. According to the SRA, Kaur also engaged in sham litigation, fabricating what appeared to be a legitimate dispute with her brother to initiate multiple false legal claims through several law firms. The objective was to launder money through those firms' client accounts, thereby concealing the illicit origin of the funds and complicating recovery efforts.

According to the SRA, this risk is particularly acute in the legal sector given its involvement in high-value transactions and its management of client funds. Yet, existing scholarship has largely examined sham litigation in other contexts, most notably as a tool for circumventing antitrust regulations (Lianos and Regibeau, 2017) or facilitating tax evasion (Marjit et al., 2021). As a result, academic research exploring the links between sham litigation, money-laundering, and corruption remains limited.

This erosion of institutional boundaries is particularly visible in the expansion of anti-money-laundering (AML) regimes, which are also regarded as an important tool in supporting anti-corruption efforts (Sharman and Chaikin, 2009). The International Monetary Fund classifies 32 countries, including the United States, as having “advanced” AML frameworks. In such jurisdictions, the heightened difficulty of transferring illicit funds through conventional channels may push corrupt actors toward more sophisticated and carefully engineered strategies (IMF, 2010). Consequently, there is a growing incentive to use mechanisms—such as sham litigation—that enable the movement of funds in ostensibly lawful ways while obscuring their corrupt origins or purposes.

This raises an important question: can civil lawsuits—whether in the form of sham litigation or other types of court actions—serve as emerging legal instruments of political corruption?



Most research on political corruption has traditionally centered on violations of formal rules, particularly bribery. In doing so, it has often overlooked practices that, while formally legal—or not clearly illegal—nevertheless exploit public trust and official authority to produce outcomes widely regarded as unjust. This blind spot has become increasingly salient as corrupt conduct has evolved in ways that are less overtly unlawful yet no less damaging to public integrity.

This phenomenon has been described as “legal corruption” by two prominent scholars in corruption studies, Oguzhan Dincer and Michael Johnston (2020). As they observe, prevailing definitions of corruption rely heavily on legal criteria and therefore “omit many kinds of activities that, while legal (or not clearly illegal), capitalize on abuses of public trust and official powers to produce outcomes regarded widely as unjust” (Dincer and Johnston 2020, p. 221). Their critique highlights the limitations of approaches that equate corruption exclusively with illegality.

A similar concern is articulated by Mark Philp (1997), who emphasizes the need to distinguish between a core set of corruption cases—characterized by intentionality, illegality, and the substitution of private for public interests—and a penumbra of cases in which these criteria are only partially or ambiguously met. For Philp, a comprehensive account of political corruption must move beyond formal legality to focus on its defining normative feature: the erosion of the boundary between public and private interests. Taken together, these perspectives underscore the importance of analyzing practices that operate within, or at the margins of, legality, yet functionally replicate the harms associated with more conventional forms of corruption.

In addition, corruption tends to thrive in so-called “grey zones” within regulatory and legal frameworks, which allow actors to circumvent formal controls and advance private interests at the expense of collective ones, thereby undermining the quality of democracy. This dynamic is particularly relevant in the context of financial

flows, as the abuse of trust for private gain—how corruption is broadly defined—often manifests through monetary transactions.

Imagine a scenario where Person A intends to transfer money to Person B in exchange for a favor, or where Person B seeks or agrees to receive payment from Person A. Both parties face a seemingly simple procedure.

1. **Person B files a civil lawsuit against Person A and demands compensation for damages. It is completely irrelevant whether B has actually suffered any damage or whether the accusation is true. It is even irrelevant whether the lawsuit has any chance of success or is legally sound.**
2. **In court, the two parties agree to a settlement. Person B agrees to drop the lawsuit in exchange for payment of the requested amount of money. Person A can now legally pay the money, and Person B can now fulfill the requested favor.**

The resulting cash flow can no longer be criticized by external auditors. It is legal and common practice to avert lawsuits by paying compensation. Only internal control bodies, such as supervisory boards, if A is a company, could identify the cash flow as questionable. The described method of transferring money therefore appears to be at least possible, but are there any examples of this method of transferring money being used?

To address this question, it is instructive to consider a series of civil lawsuits filed by the 47th President of the United States, and the settlements arising from those actions. Collectively, these settlements have resulted in payments to Donald Trump exceeding US\$90 million. This consists of five lawsuits: \$16 million from the American Broadcasting Corporation (Disney); \$16 million from Paramount Global; \$25 million from Meta (Facebook); \$25 million from X (formerly Twitter); and \$24.5 million from Alphabet (YouTube) (Davies, 2025).

Each of these cases were subject to serious doubt, particularly with

respect to their likelihood of success (Paul, 2021). Legal experts had previously stated publicly that the lawsuits were likely to fail. Nevertheless, a settlement was reached in each instance, and the companies concerned paid eight-figure sums to Trump to avoid further litigation (Benen, 2025).

Not only did legal experts give the defendants good odds in all cases, but the legal world also harshly criticized the settlements. What makes the situation particularly sensitive is that the defendant companies are, without exception, major media and technology platforms. The companies’ capitulation is therefore also interpreted as a weakening of media freedom. Joyce Vance, an American lawyer and former prosecutor who served as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama from 2009 to 2017, is quoted as saying: “I’m old enough to remember—and to have worked on—cases where newspapers vigorously defended themselves against defamation cases instead of folding before the defendant was even deposed.” (McHardy, 2024).

There is no evidence that the payments mentioned in the civil lawsuits are the result of corruption. Nor is there any evidence that the civil lawsuits were filed to circumvent anti-money laundering systems. Part of the definition of corruption is usually *quid pro quo*, which means that there is a consideration in return for a service. Many of these defendant companies rely heavily on government contracts and, to a certain extent, on the goodwill of the administration. This applies not only to preserving existing contracts or securing new ones, but also to evading scrutiny, regulatory oversight, sanctions, or other administrative and court actions.

Alternative interpretations are also possible. The funds could have been extorted, as Trump reportedly publicly threatened some of the companies involved (Haberman et al., 2024). Or they could be covert campaign donations. Regardless of the underlying motivation, the settlements appear difficult to explain solely on the legal merits of the cases, as sev-

eral commentators have raised concerns about the limited evidentiary and legal foundations of the lawsuits.

The objective here is not to speculate, investigate or assess the specific actions of Donald Trump or the defendant companies. Rather, the purpose is to reflect on how settlements in civil lawsuits may provide a new legal avenue for transferring money without triggering anti-money laundering system alerts that would otherwise flag such payments as suspicious or potentially illicit and, thus, as a possible vehicle for corruption.

Corruption, as widely documented, not only undermines good governance and the rule of law—posing a serious threat to democratic principles, economic integrity, and justice—but also operates as a dynamic and adaptive phenomenon within a complex system of interrelated and interacting actors and institutions. Within this broader framework, legal corruption, however counterintuitive the term may appear, represents a particular manifestation of this adaptability. It is closely linked to conflicts of interest and the exercise of influence through mechanisms that are formally lawful.

To date, emerging research has examined the connections between corruption and practices such as political finance, lobbying, and revolving doors—forms of influence that, while legitimate and often regulated, may nevertheless result in the misuse of public power for private benefit (Huss et al., 2024). For example, party donations may later be reciprocated through preferential access to decision-makers, favorable regulatory

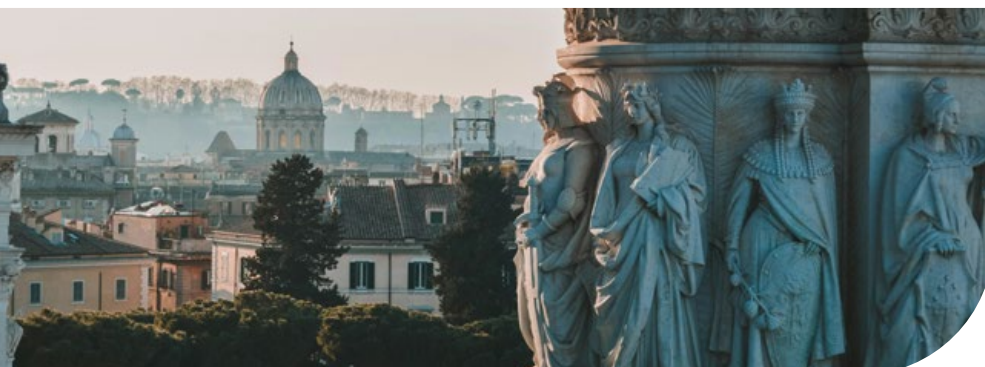
treatment, or the awarding of government contracts, thereby blurring the boundary between lawful political participation and corrupt exchange. Lobbying strategies may secure privileged access to, and influence over, decision-making processes, thereby advancing the interests of particular individuals or groups at the expense of transparency, accountability, and the public good. A similar risk arises with revolving doors, which, if insufficiently monitored and regulated, may facilitate preferential treatment or regulatory shortcuts.

In the same vein, and irrespective of the specific cases discussed here, civil litigation—whether genuine or strategically orchestrated—may similarly be employed to disguise financial transfers, obscure the origin of funds, or lend legal legitimacy to payments made in exchange for political or economic favors. Moreover, civil lawsuits may, in certain circumstances, be leveraged to exert coercive pressure, discourage criticism, or contribute to processes of institutional capture.

As corruption adapts to increasingly sophisticated regulatory environments, there is a pressing need for deeper research into how its methods evolve and infiltrate ostensibly lawful mechanisms of governance and finance. Corruption can be disguised through court litigation, granting illicit transactions the appearance of legality—a true stamp of legitimacy on corrupt practices.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE CONGRESS THEME

MORE THAN A PLATFORM: DIGITAL MEDIA AS A SOURCE OF DEMOCRATIC UNCERTAINTY

IVAN FILIPE FERNANDES
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF ABC, BRAZIL



**GUILHERME ANTONIO
DE A. LOPES FERNANDES**
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND
MANAGEMENT – ESEG, BRAZIL

The theme of the 2027 IPSA World Congress, *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*, captures a condition that political scientists increasingly recognize across vastly different regions of the world. Democracies that not long ago appeared consolidated have become more brittle, more anxious, and less certain of their own futures.

Much of the scholarship on this democratic recession looks outward to shifts in the global economy, to patterns of migration, to changing values, and to the unsettling of the international order brought about by shifts in the global balance of power. At the same time, a less visible but equally profound transformation has been unfolding within the digital infrastructures through which citizens increasingly experience politics. One of the deepest sources of democratic uncertainty lies in the quiet reshaping of the public sphere by digital platforms and algorithmic communication.

This raises a harder question than it might appear. Why has political discontent deepened across so many democracies—including emerging ones that grew rapidly and lifted millions out of poverty—even as the conditions it supposedly reflects have, on average, improved? The puzzle lies less in material deprivation than in the distance between aggregate progress and lived experience, and thus in the digital environments where citizens now navigate political life.

This essay argues that digital platforms have become a powerful independent driver of political dissatisfaction and resentment. Through algorithmic selection, emotional reinforcement, and the creation of increasingly fragmented informational environments, digital platforms do not simply mediate political life. They actively reshape it. In doing so, they have emerged as one of the defining forces behind the contemporary crisis of democratic governance, not as a neutral arena for conflicts formed elsewhere, but as a condition that, interacting with economic and institutional strain, actively generate the discontent that erodes democratic life.

BEYOND CONVENTIONAL EXPLANATIONS

The literature on democratic backsliding has produced three broadly persuasive families of explanation:

- 1. Economic Dislocation:** Emphasizes the disruption generated by globalization, which lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty in the Global South while producing perceptions of relative decline and frustrated expectations among industrial and middle-class sectors in advanced democracies (Rodrik, 2011; Milanovic, 2016);
- 2. Demographic Anxiety:** Foregrounds migration and the reconfiguration of national communities, arguing that the growing visibility of cultural diversity has intensified anxieties over identity, belonging, and sovereignty (Mounk, 2018);
- 3. Cultural Backlash:** Locates the problem in a reaction by older and more socially conservative sectors against the cosmopolitan and post-material values that have become increasingly dominant since the 1970s (Norris and Inglehart, 2019).

These accounts are indispensable, and nothing that follows is intended to reject them. Indeed, they help explain why anti-system and populist movements have become increasingly influential across contemporary democracies. Yet, they share an implicit assumption that deserves closer examination: in most of these explanations, digital communication appears merely as an intermediary—a channel through which pre-existing economic, cultural, or political grievances are transmitted, amplified, and exploited by skilled political entrepreneurs. The grievance is assumed to originate outside the platform, which merely carries it. It is this assumption that the rest of this essay calls into question.

This assumption, however, creates significant analytical difficulties. The structural-economic account fits the experience of the Global North far better than that of many emerging democracies. Indeed, comparative evidence shows that the social bases

of political conflict differ sharply across the world. As Western party systems have realigned around education and identity, class cleavages have intensified rather than dissolved in democracies of the Global South (Gethin, Martínez-Toledano, and Piketty, 2021). Brazil, India, and Argentina have each experienced powerful anti-system mobilizations despite not fitting neatly into the category of globalization's "losers".

In Brazil, the first major wave of anti-establishment protest in 2013 preceded the country's subsequent economic downturn. The June 2013 demonstrations emerged during a period of relatively low unemployment and expanding social inclusion, yet rapidly evolved into a diffuse expression of anger against institutions, parties, and political representation itself. While these protests unfolded against a backdrop of major corruption scandals implicating prominent political figures, their mobilizing capacity was inseparable from the role of digital platforms, which transformed localized grievances into a nationwide surge of anti-institutional anger. As Tufekci (2017) demonstrates, the digitally mediated character of those mobilizations enabled them to grow at extraordinary speed while leaving them without the organizational capacity to negotiate institutional outcomes, leaving a vacuum of representation that, in the end, fed further anti-system sentiment.

Equally telling is the social profile of anti-system politics across many democracies, which draws substantial support from middle-class and relatively well-integrated citizens who display few of the classic indicators of material deprivation. As Kurer (2020) shows, what often moves such voters is a perception of relative decline—a sense of slipping status among groups that remain comparatively secure—rather than outright impoverishment. Such anti-system support reflects subjective social standing as much as objective economic position (Gidron and Hall, 2017). The suburban homeowner and the small entrepreneur appear alongside more vulnerable sectors within the same coalition of political discontent. The breadth of this social base suggests that contemporary resentment cannot be

understood solely as a reflection of objective material deprivation.

DIGITAL MEDIA AS ENGINES OF RESENTMENT

Understanding why this occurs requires looking first not at politics, but at the underlying business model of these digital platforms. The major platforms operate within an attention economy. Their services appear to be free because the true commodity being traded is human attention. Algorithms are optimized to maximize engagement, which is most effectively generated by intense emotion. Anger, fear, indignation, and moral outrage attract significantly more reactions, comments, and shares than moderation or reflection (Brady et al., 2017; Rathje et al., 2021).

Unlike the broadcast era, when electoral campaigns occupied relatively bounded moments of civic life, platform politics transforms elections into a permanent condition. Consequently, citizens are continuously exposed to emotionally charged political content, even outside formal campaign periods, creating a constant demand for outrage and moral positioning. Political mobilization thus becomes less an exceptional event than an ordinary feature of everyday digital life. The predictable consequence is a communicative environment of permanent, low-grade emotional arousal in which negative affect is continuously manufactured.

Two characteristics of this environment are particularly vital:

1. **The Echo Chamber:** The first is the echo chamber, where users are served material that confirms their pre-existing beliefs while dissenting views are filtered away. Messaging applications and digital media feeds organize social interaction around relatively homogeneous groups, making disagreement less frequent while reinforcing shared emotional interpretations of political events. Moreover, the political opponents who do remain in view appear in their most extreme and caricatured forms (Bail, 2021). Perceptions of injustice, status loss, and external threat intensify and become harder to challenge in the absence of con-

tradition. What once would have been isolated individual frustrations can rapidly aggregate into collective perceptions of permanent crisis.

2. The Invitation to Continuous Social Comparison:

The other is the continuous invitation to social comparison. Jonathan Haidt (2024) has drawn attention to the correlation between smartphone-based social life and rising levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness among younger generations. The replacement of embodied social interaction with carefully curated virtual experiences does not remain confined to the private sphere. If these platforms reshape cognition and emotional life, it becomes difficult to assume that their psychological effects halt at the boundary between private psychology and democratic citizenship.

This process becomes even clearer when viewed through the lens of theories of recognition and social resonance. Axel Honneth (2009) understands individual development as continuous struggle for recognition achieved through meaningful interactions with others. Digital platforms, however, offer structurally different experiences. Rather than offering encounters that foster individual growth, algorithmic logic returns to users an amplified version of what they already feel, think, or believe.

Hartmut Rosa's (2019) concept of resonance offers a complementary perspective. Healthy social relations emerge when individuals experience a world that responds in unexpected and transformative ways. Platform environments often do the exact opposite. Instead of opening the self to difference, they return an increasingly personalized reflection of what users already feel. The result is not resonance, but repetition. Cynthia Fleury (2020) locates the political danger precisely here: resentment, in her account, grows from a paradox of entitlement—from thwarted expectation of equal consideration. When that promise goes unmet, even if the violation is imagined rather than real, it produces deeply corrosive political emotions.



This is precisely the mechanism that much of the existing literature on democratic recession leaves underexplored. Digital media do not merely transmit grievances that originate elsewhere. Through the ordinary operation of attention-maximizing algorithms and emotionally-optimized interactions, they actively participate in producing those grievances. Giuliano da Empoli (2019) has shown how political entrepreneurs exploit these dynamics through micro-targeted campaigns designed to weaponize fear and outrage.

The deeper point, however, is that such explicit manipulation is not a precondition. An architecture built for profit through retention continuously rewards emotional intensity and, interacting with economic strain and institutional distrust, it sustains a cycle of dissatisfaction and grievance that can leave individuals more receptive to anti-systemic appeals. The claim is not that digital platforms manufacture resentment out of nothing, but that they have become an independent ingredient in its production, rather than a neutral conduit for grievances formed elsewhere.

The mechanisms examined here—the algorithmic amplification of negative affect, the architecture of echo chambers and the subsequent distortion of political realities, and the continuous invitation to social comparison—suggest that platform architecture does not merely carry political discontent. It participates in manufacturing it and, in doing so, has become one of the structural conditions under which the democratic recession unfolds.

DEMOCRACY UNDER ALGORITHMIC GOVERNANCE

Much of contemporary public life now unfolds within spaces that are not genuinely public. The platforms that host political debate are privately owned, operated by corporations with primary commercial objectives and concentrated in the hands of a small number of global oligopolies whose governing algorithms remain largely inaccessible to public scrutiny (Zuboff, 2019). That same commercial logic has financed powerful lobbies against precisely the regulatory interventions that might alter it. The sys-

tems that regulate the flow of political information among citizens are therefore neither neutral nor accountable in the way democratic institutions are expected to be.

The challenge that follows is of a fundamentally new kind. Democratic governments have traditionally regulated public spaces, analog media systems, and electoral competition within their own territorial boundaries. Today, the infrastructures that shape political attention transcend those boundaries, while the institutions that sustain representative democracy—such as parliaments, parties, elections, and the analog public sphere—were designed for a slower world where information circulated at the pace of print and face-to-face deliberation.

Because technologies evolve in months while institutions adapt over years, the resulting sense of instability can itself generate structural demands for certainty, authority, and the promise of a restored, even if authoritarian, order. If democratic societies are to preserve meaningful public deliberation, they may need to develop new, perhaps even supranational, forms of oversight capable of addressing the structural power of algorithms.

Representative democracy was not built for an environment in which political subjectivities are continuously shaped by systems engineered to maximize emotional engagement and prolong attention for private gain. The central question raised by the 2027 IPSA World Congress therefore extends beyond the resilience of existing democratic institutions. It asks whether democracy itself must structurally evolve in order to remain viable under conditions of algorithmic governance.

The answer to how democracy must evolve under these conditions is not yet settled, and we would resist both the techno-pessimism that treats decline as destiny and the complacency that assumes the problem will naturally resolve itself. What remains clear, however, is the nature of the challenge. As long as digital communication is treated merely as an intermediary through which pre-existing conflicts are expressed, the deeper mechanism will remain unaddressed.

If platforms actively generate the forms of resentment that erode democratic life—and the argument developed here suggests they do—then governing the algorithmic infrastructure of public life is not a technical afterthought. It is the defining political question of our time.

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PLENARY SPEAKERS



Sunday

25 July

Francis
FUKUYAMA

Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), faculty member of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) and Director of Stanford's Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy, and a professor (by courtesy) of Political Science.

Stanford University



Monday

26 July

M
RAMESH

Professor and
UNESCO Chair
on Social Policy
Design in Asia

Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy,
National University
of Singapore



Tuesday

27 July

Mary
KALDOR

Professor Emeritus
of Global Governance
and Director of the
Conflict and Civicness
Research Group

The London School
of Economics and
Political Science



Wednesday

28 July

John
DUNN

Emeritus Professor

King's College,
University
of Cambridge

AT THE **2027 IPSA**
WORLD CONGRESS
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN ROME

HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



CHIARA MARITATO

SENIOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF TURIN
MEMBER OF THE SISP SECRETARIAT

Despite Italy's long-standing tradition of political thought, exemplified by renowned figures such as Niccolò Machiavelli, Gaetano Mosca and Vilfredo Pareto, it was only in the aftermath of World War II that political science emerged as an independent academic discipline. This development coincided with the democratization of the Italian political system and the expansion of higher education.

A significant turning point in the development of the field was marked by the contributions of Giovanni Sartori, who played a pivotal role in establishing political science as an independent academic discipline within Italian universities during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1971, he established the *Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* (*Italian Political Science Review*), which subsequently became the leading journal in the field, providing a common platform for the burgeoning community of Italian political scientists.

The first national organization of political scientists was established in 1973 with the founding of the Italian Section of Political Science within the Italian Association of Political

and Social Sciences. Giovanni Sartori served as its first President from 1973 to 1975. He was succeeded by Norberto Bobbio (1975-1978), a seminal figure in Italian political theory, and by Alberto Spreafico (1978-1981). The establishment of the Section constituted the first national endeavour to harmonise teaching and research activities in political science across Italian universities.

In 1981, the Section was transformed into the Italian Political Science Association (*Società Italiana di Scienza Politica*, SISP), with Alberto Spreafico serving as its first President until 1984. SISP soon emerged as the country's principal professional organization for the discipline. It sought to strengthen the institutional foundations of political science in Italy by organizing annual conferences, encouraging scholarly collaboration, and facilitating the development of research networks across Italian universities.

In the 1980s, the Association started organizing a series of national conferences that contributed to the consolidation of the Italian political science community. At the same time, the field of political science witnessed significant expansion within Italian universities, marked by the introduction of new courses, degree programmes, and research centres. Following the establishment of the first PhD programme in Political Science in Florence, which was later joined by a second programme in International Relations in Padua, a system of disciplinary training was developed and, over time, produced an initial group of around a hundred scholars. The annual SISP conference emerged as the main venue for scholarly discussion and networking among Italian political scientists.

Throughout the 1990s, the discipline underwent sustained growth and became increasingly integrated into international academic networks in terms of both research and teaching.

The annual conference expanded in size and attendance, while new generations of scholars entered the profession through doctoral programmes established at several Italian universities. Research activity broadened across all major subfields of political science, including comparative politics, political theory, public policy, political institutions, electoral studies, European integration, and international relations.

The early 2000s constituted a period of significant development for the Association. In 2001, SISP established an online paper room for its annual conference, thereby enhancing research dissemination and fostering scholarly debate. In 2004, Giovanni Sartori transferred ownership of the *Italian Political Science Review* to the Association, thereby reinforcing its institutional presence within the discipline. In 2007, SISP introduced *Italian Political Science*, a second peer-reviewed journal designed to advance research dissemination, further broaden scholarly dialogue and support younger generations of researchers.

The internationalization of Italian political science accelerated during the following decade. The *Italian Political Science Review* increased its international visibility and has been published by Cambridge University Press since 2014. The Association also strengthened its cooperation with international scholarly organizations and promoted the participation of Italian scholars in comparative and cross-national research projects.

SISP has long maintained a close and important relationship with the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Italian political scientists have been active participants in IPSA activities, research committees, and the World Congress for a considerable period. A significant milestone was achieved when Leonardo Morlino was elected President of IPSA for the



2009-2012 term, becoming the first Italian scholar to hold the position. His election reflected the growing international stature of Italian political science and its contribution to the development of the discipline on a global scale.

Italian scholars have made important contributions to several areas of political science. Giovanni Sartori's work on party systems, democracy, constitutional engineering, and concept formation has had a lasting global impact. Other distinguished scholars, including Gianfranco Pasquino, Maurizio Cotta, Leonardo Morlino, and many others, have contributed to the advancement of comparative politics, democratization studies, political institutions, and European integration. The SISP has been home to reflections and debates among scholars from different generations, and it has promoted early career prizes, scholarships, and grants to members engaged in research activities through its 17 standing groups.

As of 2026, SISP counts approximately 600 members and remains the principal organization representing political science in Italy. The

Association promotes research and professional development through its annual conference, standing groups, publications, prizes, and international collaborations. Its annual conference regularly attracts hundreds of international participants and serves as the largest gathering of political scientists in the country.

Today, political science is taught at undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels in universities throughout Italy. The discipline continues to develop across a broad range of fields and remains actively engaged with international scholarly debates. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by declining university funding and the increasing precariousness of employment contracts in higher education, Italian political science continues to make significant contributions to the study of politics, governance and public affairs at both the national and international levels. In this vein, SISP has devoted significant attention to diversity and inclusion, with a growing emphasis on gender issues within and beyond academia. Through its official publications and annual conferences,

the Association encourages and develops methodological pluralism and promotes original and groundbreaking contributions to the discipline.

Against this backdrop, SISP brings together scholars from diverse subfields of the discipline, thereby providing spaces for debate and open discussion on a range of current national and international issues. In 2026, SISP launched a survey among its members and past conference participants to gather information on the community's profile, its relationship with the Association, and satisfaction with the services offered. The results of this study will inform the Executive Board's future decisions and contribute to the further development of the Association's goals.

SISP members represent a diverse range of career stages, from PhD students to full professors. They benefit from a dynamic community of scholars that engages in continuous dialogue through a range of active communication channels, including a monthly newsletter, social media pages, and a website.





ROME WELCOMES YOU

Welcome to a city that has stood at the heart of European and Western history for more than 2,500 years. From the capital of the ancient Roman Empire to the center of the papal world, Rome has long been a political, cultural, and spiritual crossroads whose influence has shaped law, architecture, language, and ideas far beyond Italy. Unique among world capitals, Rome is also the only city to contain within its borders a foreign state—Vatican City—adding yet another layer to its exceptional historical and institutional significance.

The city's ancient heritage is evident in numerous sites, including the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Roman Forum and Imperial Fora, the Fontana di Trevi, Piazza Navona, and St. Peter's Basilica. The preservation of these sites has earned the entire historic center a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Yet, Rome is not only a repository of the past. It is a vibrant contemporary capital where historical layers coexist with modern intellectual, cultural, and civic life. This unique combination of continuity, grandeur, and everyday vitality gives Rome a distinctive atmosphere and brings unparalleled depth to the 2027 IPSA World Congress. For more information about Rome, please visit the [Turismo Roma](#) website.

DISCOVER ITALIAN CUISINE

Many visitors to Rome remember the city for its outstanding food experience. Alongside Roman classics such as carbonara, cacio e pepe, and traditional Roman-style pizza, countless trattorias and osterias offer specialties from across Italy's regions. The city's coffee shops and outdoor terraces also provide inviting places to enjoy espresso, aperitifs, and other beverages while taking in the atmosphere.



EUROPE'S SECOND GREENEST CAPITAL

Beyond the monuments and the cuisine, Rome is recognized as one of the greenest capitals in Europe. It features sprawling, open-air art museums dotted with lush parks and historic villas that once belonged to noble families. Visitors can move from the peaceful relaxation of Villa Borghese or Villa Doria Pamphilj to breathtaking panoramic viewpoints like the Orange Garden (Parco Savello) or the Janiculum Hill; the city offers tranquil green spaces perfect for relaxing.





MUST-SEE SITES IN ROME



The Colosseum: The largest amphitheatre from the Roman era, it is the only monument in Europe to be recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.



Piazza Navona: One of the most important squares in Rome, built on the remains of the Stadium of Domitian.



St. Peter's Basilica: A breathtaking masterpiece of Renaissance architecture whose soaring dome and immense scale anchor the heart of the Vatican.



The Pantheon: A remarkably preserved ancient temple that invites you under its open-sky dome to witness the timeless grandeur of antiquity.



The Roman Forum and Imperial Fora: The ultimate epicenters of ancient Roman public life. This side-by-side complex lets visitors walk through the historic, centuries-old heart of the Roman Republic as well as the magnificent civic squares built by rulers from Julius Caesar to Trajan between 46 BCE and 113 CE.



Fontana di Trevi: Rome's iconic Baroque masterpiece of cascading waters, mythical sculptures, and coin-tossed wishes.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELING TO ROME



VISA AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

Visitors entering Italy must hold a valid passport and, depending on their nationality, may be required to obtain a Schengen visa. Starting in late 2026, citizens from 59 visa-exempt nations will be required to obtain an [ETIAS](#) (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) before arriving. The digital authorization links directly to the traveler's passport, costs €7, and allows stays of up to 90 days within any 180-day period. EU citizens, as well as nationals of countries within the Schengen Area, may enter Italy using a valid national identity card. Nationals of countries requiring a visa must apply in advance at an Italian consulate, submitting the required documentation and ensuring that their passport is valid for at least six months beyond the intended date of entry. For further details, please visit the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Visa Portal at <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it>.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROME

Weather: Summers in Rome are hot, dry, and generally sunny. July and August are the hottest months, with standard daytime summer conditions ranging to around 30-32°C (86-90°F). During heatwaves, daytime temperatures can also rise to between 35°C and 38°C (95°F to 100°F), or even higher. We recommend wearing lightweight, breathable, and light-colored clothing. Sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and regular hydration are essential. It is also advisable to avoid prolonged exposure to the midday sun.



Currency: Italy uses the Euro (€), the common currency of the Eurozone. Foreign currencies can be exchanged at airports, banks, and authorized exchange offices throughout Rome. ATMs are widely available across the city, including at airports, train stations, and major tourist areas. Credit and debit cards are also universally accepted.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

The IPSA Secretariat and local organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to the private property of participants. Participants are advised to take out their own personal travel and health insurance for their trip.





CONGRESS VENUE



LUISS

Università di Roma

Located in the eternal city of Rome (Italy), the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (Luiss) is an international university specialized in the fields of social sciences, providing a dynamic and modern academic environment. The University offers an international, interdisciplinary, and innovative approach to social sciences; it is ranked 23rd in the world for “Politics” in the 2026 QS World University Ranking, number 3 in the EU and number 1 in Italy. Each year, Luiss welcomes visiting professors and fosters global networks through research projects, summer schools, and partnerships with 300+ universities. At Luiss, political science degrees prepare students for leadership roles in public and private sectors, civil society, and international organizations. Courses are taught in English or Italian, with a strong emphasis on empirical research, policy analysis, and global affairs, while international mobility is a pillar of the Luiss learning experience. The Luiss Department of Political Science is a multidisciplinary and multinational community of scholars, doing research in several fields in the social sciences, adopting composite methods, and contributing to debates in different disciplines. More than 30% of our PhD students come from outside of Italy. The Department of Political Science is connected to a wide ecosystem of research structures, such as the Center for International and Strategic Studies (CISS), the Center on Democracy, and the Data Lab. The Luiss School of Government (SoG) is a postgraduate school offering advanced education and training in political science, public policy, and international affairs. Its academic programmes are designed for graduates aiming to pursue careers in government, international organizations, and public or private institutions.

The campus of Viale Romania—which will be the venue for the 2027 IPSA World Congress—houses administrative offices, teaching and research activities with state-of-the-art facilities. Historic and contemporary buildings are harmoniously integrated into vast green areas, of inestimable artistic and cultural value.





TRANSPORTATION



GETTING AROUND ROME

Rome has an extensive public transportation system that includes buses, trams, Metro (Metropolitana), and train lines, making it easy to travel throughout the city. It is compulsory to purchase a ticket at an authorized sales outlet before boarding. A single e-ticket can be bought electronically by tapping in with a contactless bank card or NFC-enabled phone/watch through Tap & Go, or by purchasing and managing digital tickets in partner smartphone apps

through [Bipiù](#). Visitors may also consider purchasing a [Roma Pass](#) (48- or 72-hour option), which provides unlimited access to public transportation within the city, along with discounts and reduced admission to selected museums, monuments, and cultural attractions. The [Metrebus Roma](#) system offers several ticket and travel pass options for visitors and residents.



TAKING A TAXI

For shorter distances, taxis can be a convenient option. Official taxis in Rome are white and display a “TAXI” sign on the roof. All licensed taxis are equipped with a meter indicating the fare during the journey, although additional charges may

also apply for luggage, late-night travel, and trips to and from the airports. Uber is also available in Rome and users can book both regular licensed taxis and premium services such as Uber Black through the app.

IPSA FEATURES

IPSA CELEBRATES THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PERMANENT SECRETARIAT IN CANADA

IPSA celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Permanent Secretariat in Montréal (Canada), by presenting a series of academic events in May and June 2026 with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) Canada and in collaboration with Concordia University, the University of Ottawa, the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), and the *Société québécoise de science politique* (SQSP).

ROUNDTABLE AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT THE 2026 CONGRESS OF THE SOCIÉTÉ QUÉBÉCOISE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

IPSA's new open-access volume, *IPSA Companion to Political Science: A Practical Introduction to the 200 Most Important Concepts* (Springer 2025), was presented during a roundtable at the 2026 Congress of the SQSP, held at the Université de Montréal (Canada), on 6 May 2026. The roundtable was followed by a cocktail reception sponsored by IPSA, celebrating the secretariat's 20th anniversary in Canada.



Photo (left to right): Daniel Salée (Chair, Department of Political Science, Concordia University), Luc Turgeon (Professor, University of Ottawa), Kim Fontaine-Skronski (Executive Director, IPSA), Audrey Gagnon (Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa) and Daniel Stockemer (Editor of the *International Political Science Review* and Professor, University of Ottawa).



CANADA AND ITS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS ROUNDTABLE AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

The first of two roundtables on "Canada and its Transatlantic Relations" was held on 28 May 2026 at Concordia University (Montréal, Canada). The Honourable Stéphane Dion (Diplomat in Residence at Université de Montréal, former Federal Minister and former Canadian Ambassador to Germany and France) was among the guest speakers. The roundtable was followed by a cocktail reception.

Photo (left to right): Kim Fontaine-Skronski (Executive Director, IPSA), Graham Carr (President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia University), Marianne Kneuer (IPSA Past-President, Professor and Chair, Comparative Politics, TU Dresden, Germany), Daniel Salée (Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Concordia University), The Honourable Stéphane Dion (Diplomat in Residence at Université de Montréal, former Federal Minister and former Canadian Ambassador to Germany and France), Boglárka Koller (Full Professor and Head of the Department of European Studies at Ludovika University of Public Service (Hungary) and President of the Central European Political Science Association), Alexandra O. Zeitz (Associate Professor in International Relations, Concordia University), Arnaud Dion (Vice-President, International Organizations, Business Insights and Communications, Montréal International), Guy Lachapelle (Former Secretary General, IPSA) and Pascale Sicotte (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia University).



CANADA AND ITS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS ROUNDTABLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

The second roundtable on “Canada and its Transatlantic Relations” was held on 1 June 2026 as part of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference at the University of Ottawa (Canada). H.E. Tjorven Bellmann (Ambassador of Germany to Canada) and Dr. Bernd Althusmann (Director, Konrad Adenauer Foundation Canada) were among the special guest speakers.

Photo (left to right): Daniel Stockemer (Editor of the *International Political Science Review* and Professor, University of Ottawa), Kim Fontaine-Skranski (Executive Director, IPSA), Lisa Young (President, Canadian Political Science Association), Bernd Althusmann (Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) Canada), H.E. Tjorven Bellmann (Ambassador of Germany to Canada), Yuko Kasuya (President, IPSA), André Lecours (IPSA Executive Committee member and Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa), Marianne Kneuer (IPSA Past President, Professor and Chair, Comparative Politics, TU Dresden, Germany) and Frédéric Vairel (Director of the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa).

IPSA'S WORK-IN-PROGRESS SESSIONS (WiPS)

The second edition of [IPSA's online Work-in-Progress Sessions \(WiPS\)](#) will be held from 13-19 July 2026. First launched as part of IPSA's 75th anniversary celebrations in 2024, the project aims to establish a series of interactive workshops where members of IPSA Research Committees (RCs) can present and engage in in-depth discussions about their research with like-minded colleagues who share similar interests.

IPSA-WiPS emphasizes “work-in-progress” papers, so completed research is not a requirement. This format provides a good opportunity for paper authors to receive specific and substantial feedback that is often lacking in other conference settings.



IPSA-AAPS AFRICA ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES (AOWS)

The [IPSA–AAPS Africa Online Workshop Series \(AOWS\)](#) is a new initiative designed to support graduate students and junior scholars at Africa-based institutions. The program offers mentoring, skills development and networking opportunities, with a focus on strengthening research design, academic writing, and professional development.

In each edition, the AOWS will focus on a critical contemporary issue determined by the Steering Committee. For the inaugural 2026 edition, the workshop will explore the “Politics of Sustainable Development and Agrarian Governance”, examining themes related to food security and agricultural policy, including the political, economic, and environmental drivers of food systems and rural transformation.



IPSA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN POLAND: RESILIENCE OF DEMOCRACY IN A POLARIZED WORLD



Following the successful IPSA World Congress held in Poznań in 2016, IPSA returns to Poland with a regional conference titled *Resilience of Democracy in a Polarized World: Populism, Autocratization and Global Challenges*. The conference will be held from 14-16 October 2026 in Wrocław, in collaboration with the Polish Political Science Association (PPSA) and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Wrocław. The call for proposals opened on 1 April until 13 May 2026.

IPSA SUMMER SCHOOLS

The IPSA Summer School Program on Concepts and Methods in Political Science was launched in 2010. It was conceived in a pluralist understanding of the epistemological and methodological foundations of the social sciences. It aims to contribute to the development and strengthening of political science through capacity building from below, especially in regions where, for various reasons, initiatives of this kind have historically been limited. Working in partnership with prestigious institutions around the world, this program has grown significantly over the past 16 years. It now includes six active and successful methods Summer

Schools (Antalya, Mexico, Naples, São Paulo, Singapore and Santiago de Compostela) offering a wide range of courses in quantitative, qualitative, and formal research methods. Moreover, since 2021, the IPSA-Concordia Summer Institute in Applied Diplomacy, held in Montréal (Canada), has been IPSA's first thematic Summer School. In 2026, IPSA also launched its second thematic Summer School, the IPSA-PPSA Summer School: Transforming Politics and Media in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, which will be held in Poznań, Poland.

IPSA-CONCORDIA SUMMER INSTITUTE IN APPLIED DIPLOMACY



Concordia University, Montréal, Canada 17-27 August 2026, In Person and Virtual

The 5th edition of the IPSA-Concordia Summer Institute in Applied Diplomacy will be held in Montréal (Canada), 17-27 August 2026. The program offers a combination of theoretical and applied sessions on key aspects of diplomacy, as well as a hands-on Diplomacy Lab and the opportunity to interact with some of the world's leading experts on diplomacy from academic and policy backgrounds.

For more information:
ipsa.org/page/ipsa-concordia-summer-institute-applied-diplomacy

IPSA-ABU ANTALYA SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Antalya Bilim University, Antalya, Türkiye 24 August – 4 September 2026, Virtual

The 7th edition of the IPSA-ABU Antalya Summer School for Social Science Research Methods will take place online from 24 August to 4 September 2026. Designed for graduate students, academics, and professionals, this program offers participants a unique opportunity to develop methodological expertise, refine analytical skills, and expand their professional network in the field.

For more information:
ipsa.org/page/ipsa-summer-school-antalya



IPSA-PPSA SUMMER SCHOOL: TRANSFORMING POLITICS AND MEDIA IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland 14-19 September 2026, In Person

The first edition of the IPSA-PPSA Summer School: Transforming Politics and Media in the Age of Artificial Intelligence will be held from 14 to 19 September 2026 in Poznań (Poland). The Summer School is organized in collaboration with the Polish Political Science Association (PPSA) and the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. This five-day program is designed for PhD students and early-career scholars from around the world. It aims to improve the quality of research by strengthening their methodological competencies and analytical skills.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/poland

IPSA-AECPA SUMMER SCHOOL IN METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

**University of Santiago de Compostela,
Santiago de Compostela, Spain
23 September – 2 October 2026,
In Person and Virtual**

The 3rd edition of the IPSA-AECPA Summer School in Methods and Techniques in Political Science will be held at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain from 23 September to 2 October 2026. The Summer School provides advanced training for graduate students and academics seeking to improve their research skills. It offers participants an excellent opportunity to expand their methodological knowledge, engage in scholarly discussions, and establish professional collaborations.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/spain

IPSA-USP SUMMER SCHOOL IN CONCEPTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**University of São Paulo, Brazil
Early 2027, In Person**

The 16th edition of the IPSA-USP Summer School in Concepts, Methods and Techniques in Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations will be held in early 2027 at the University of São Paulo (Brazil). The program offers intensive applied courses at the University of São Paulo designed to help participants acquire the competencies and knowledge needed to prepare for exams, develop a strong dissertation, initiate a research project, or improve their pedagogical skills.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/sao-paulo

**IPSA-FLACSO MEXICO SUMMER SCHOOL ON CONCEPTS, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FLACSO México, México City
June-July 2027, Virtual**

The 11th IPSA-FLACSO Mexico Summer School on Concepts, Methods and Techniques in Political Science will be held virtually in June-July 2027. This intensive program will offer a wide range of basic and advanced courses in Spanish and English on the most innovative research methods and techniques that define analysis and measurement in political science and social sciences.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/Mexico

IPSA-NUS SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

**National University of Singapore
July 2027, In Person**

The 16th Annual IPSA-NUS Summer School for Social Science Research Methods will be held at the National University of Singapore in July 2027. The Summer School will offer 14 courses covering a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods. All courses will focus on both the theory and practice of social science research. Participants will receive excellent hands-on training in state-of-the-art methods and techniques from highly experienced international faculty members.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/singapore

IPSA-FEDERICA SUMMER SCHOOL ON DIGITAL THINKING:
CONCEPT AND ANALYSIS IN THE WEB ENVIRONMENT**Federico II University, Naples, Italy
September 2027, In Person and Virtual**

The 2027 edition of the IPSA-Federica Summer School on Digital Thinking: Concept Analysis in the Web Environment will be organized in partnership with the University of Naples Federico II and will take place in a hybrid format in September 2027. The program is currently being redesigned, with updates to both its structure and content. The organizing team is working on a renewed format aimed at enriching the overall learning experience. Further details, including dates and participation information, will be shared in due course.

For more information: ipsa.org/summer-school/naples

SEPTEMBER 3-6 | BOSTON, MA

**2026 APSA ANNUAL****MEETING & EXHIBITION**

DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT: HOW TO UNDERSTAND, PROTECT, AND REBUILD

Join Scholars in Boston!**Register Now**

Attend the largest gathering of political scientists in Boston for the American Political Science Association's (APSA) 122nd Annual Meeting & Exhibition, from September 3-6, 2026, to address the latest scholarship in political science and explore this year's conference theme, "Democracy Under Threat: How to Understand, Protect, and Rebuild."

Register at: www.apsanet.org/annualmeeting

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS NEWS

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



2026 APSA Annual Meeting

The [122nd APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#) will take place in Boston, Massachusetts (USA), from 3-6 September 2026. The meeting will address the latest scholarship in political science while exploring this year's conference theme *Democracy Under Threat: How to Understand, Protect, and Rebuild*. Search the [2026 APSA Annual Meeting Online Program](#) to view the plenary panels, workshops, roundtables, pre-conference short courses, mini-conferences and special events featured at the 2026 APSA Annual Meeting.

APSA and the 2026 Program Co-Chairs Ellen Lust (Cornell University), Laura Gamboa (University of Notre Dame) and Jamila Michener (Cornell University) look forward to your participation in panels and sessions prepared by APSA's divisions and numerous related groups. The 2027 APSA Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC (USA) from 2-5 September 2027.

2027 Teaching and Learning Conference

Join APSA for its [2027 Teaching and Learning Conference](#), to be held in Portland, Oregon (USA) from 5-7 February 2027. Conference attendees are invited to engage in the theme *Building Bridges: Dialogue and Discovery in Political Science*.

Presidential Task Force

APSA task forces seek to heighten political science's public profile by sharing the best research and knowledge on

important issues in areas of public concern. The report from the Presidential Task Force on AI, Politics, and Political Science is now available. Artificial intelligence is transforming politics and the study of political science, much as it is reshaping other areas of society and scholarship. Read the full report, along with reports from previous Presidential Task Forces, in the [Publications section](#) of the APSA website.

Department of International Programs

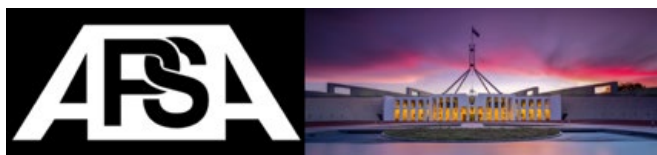
APSA's Department of International Programs works to advance political science scholarship by promoting closer ties between political scientists in and outside the United States, and providing opportunities to share and learn from a wide range of substantive and methodological interests. Enhancing APSA's international reach benefits the discipline by expanding networks, enriching theories and broadening perspectives. For further information on APSA's international projects and initiatives, visit the [Programs section](#) of the APSA website.

Call for Papers

[PS: Political Science & Politics](#) is a premier outlet featuring timely, peer-reviewed articles on contemporary politics written for the knowledgeable general reader, together with commentary and debate on major issues in the political science profession. The upcoming special issue, "[Presidentialism in Latin America: Institutional Paths in the Making](#)," invites theoretically informed and methodologically diverse contributions that analyze national-level reforms, assess their cumulative impact on differentiated trajectories, and explore broader lessons for presidentialism. Deadline: 17 September 2026.

Find more calls for papers, grant opportunities and APSA events on the [APSA website](#).

AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION



The Australian Political Studies Association (AusPSA) is pleased to share several developments with the international political science community, including on preparations for the 2026 AusPSA Annual Conference, the launch of a new prize in political theory, and work undertaken by its current board of directors.

2026 Annual Conference

Deakin University will play host to the [2026 AusPSA Annual Conference](#) at its Waterfront Campus in Geelong, Victoria (Australia), from 23-26 November 2026. The conference theme, *Politics, Power, and the Polycrisis*, invites scholars to reflect on how political science can help make sense of overlapping crises in the areas of democratic governance, climate, inequality, security, technology and social cohesion. Geelong, located one hour south-west of Melbourne, is the gateway to the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula and the Great Ocean Road (12 Apostles).



Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Geelong, Victoria (Credit: Deakin University, 2026).

New Prize in Political Theory

AusPSA has also launched the [Peter Balint Memorial Prize in Political Theory](#), a new annual initiative meant to recognize outstanding unpublished work that makes a significant contribution to political theory. The prize honours Dr. Peter Balint's distinguished scholarship on diversity, respect, toleration, neutrality and social cohesion, and his unconventional path into academia. Open to political theorists worldwide, either early-career researchers or scholars at any career stage who have followed an unusual path into

academia, the prize includes a monetary award of \$2,000 AUD, and the winning paper will be given a pathway to publication in the [Australian Journal of Political Science](#) (AJPS), the refereed journal of AusPSA. Submissions for this year close/closed on 19 July 2026.

Australian Journal of Political Science Call for Special Issues

AusPSA announces that AJPS is launching a [second call](#) for the publication of special issues, with proposals welcome under two separate streams. The first encourages topics related to Australian politics, elections, political parties, electoral behaviour, public policy and/or institutions. The second stream is an open call and will consider any topic of interest to our readership and members not falling under the Australian politics stream. Enquiries and submissions should be emailed to ausjps.eds@gmail.com by 30 September 2026.

Board Update

AusPSA's current [Board of Directors](#) brings together scholars from across the Australian political studies community. The Board includes President Mark Chou, Vice-President Jill Sheppard, Immediate Past President Andrea Carson, Treasurer Zareh Ghazarian, and Directors Rob Manwaring, Caitlin Mollica and Diana Perche.

Together, these initiatives reflect AusPSA's commitment to supporting political studies in Australia while strengthening dialogue with scholars and associations across the global political science community.

CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (TAIPEI)



2026 Annual Conference

The Chinese Association of Political Science (Taipei) (CAPS), in collaboration with the Department of Diplomacy at National Chengchi University (NCCU), is pleased to announce its 2026 Annual International Conference. This event will be held at the General Building of Colleges, NCCU, in Taipei (Taiwan), on 17-18 October 2026.

This year's theme is *Rethinking Democracy: Continuity and Change in Modern Democratic Values and Practices*. In an era marked by political polarization, the rise of populism and technological shifts, this conference aims to re-eval-

uate the structural contradictions of modern democratic systems in the digital age. As Taiwan stands as a bastion of democracy in East Asia, the conference will explore how democracies can strengthen their governance and resilience amid global geopolitical transitions.

While the association has long been a fixture in Mandarin-speaking academic circles, we are actively expanding our international outreach. The conference will feature dedicated English-language panels to facilitate in-depth academic dialogue on various sub-themes.

CAPS looks forward to welcoming you to Taipei for a rigorous and insightful academic exchange.

For further information on CAPS, please contact capstaipei28@gmail.com.

FINNISH POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

FINNISH POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Conference

The [Finnish Political Science Association \(FPSA\)](#) held its annual conference at Tampere University (Finland) on 6-8 May 2026. Following a rotation system, Tampere University hosted the annual event under the theme of *Turbulent Times in World Politics*. The largely trilingual conference (English, Finnish, Swedish) saw scholars of political science and other disciplines, as well as professionals working on related topics, gather to examine global political issues, the increasingly complex world of political activity, and evolving directions in world politics. The workshops and presentations given as part of the conference drew from both national and international perspectives, as well as disciplinary and interdisciplinary viewpoints.

The three-day conference included one day dedicated to FPSA's Early Scholars' Network (ESN). PhD researchers were invited to present their work in a purpose-built constructive environment. The main conference days featured a keynote delivered by Professor Emilian Kavalski, an international politics expert, titled "Governing from Above: Platforms, Infrastructures, and Power in a Turbulent World." The conference also saw FPSA present its annual award for best master's thesis in political science in Finland.

A total of 22 workshops (excl. the ESN workshop) and 137 presentations were given as part of the 2026 conference, which drew some 120 participants. The conference also featured a "meet the editors" event in the form of an organized coffee break promoting FPSA publications (the Finnish- and Swedish-language political science journal *Politiikka*, the *Pro et Contra* English book series, and the trilingual Web journal *Politiikasta*, dedicated to popularizing social science research), where editors were available to answer questions. The conference wrapped up with a panel discussion featuring a sitting minister of the Finnish Cabinet, the director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and two professors.

While organizing costs for small scientific associations remain high, the annual conference was once again a resounding success, thanks in large part to a tireless team of volunteers. The conference gives the FPSA an opportunity to collaborate with associations in complementary disciplines, including the Finnish Society for Political Economy Research and the Finnish Peace Research Association.

New Board 2026-2027

The Finnish Political Science Association has selected its new board for the 2026-2027 operational term. Serving as Board Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, are University of Helsinki postdoctoral researcher Theodora Helimäki and Tampere University postdoctoral researcher Mikko Poutanen. Researcher Kimmo Makkonen will continue to serve as the association's Secretary.

HELLENIC POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

The Athens-based [Hellenic Political Science Association](#) held its 12th regular conference in November 2025 under the main theme of *Democracy in Crisis*. Hosted by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Panteion University, the conference was well attended. The keynote speaker, Professor Yannis Papadopoulos (University of Lausanne), spoke about the conference's main theme.

In February 2026, the HPSA elected its new board made up of Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos (President), Vassiliki Georgiadou (Vice-President), Anastasia Kafe (General Secretary), Thomas Siomos (Treasurer) and Lamprini Rori (Deputy General Secretary).

In March 2026, the HPSA presented a webinar titled "Taking Stock of the First Year of the Second Presidency of Donald Trump in the USA." Among the guest speakers from the USA and Europe were George Tsebelis (University

of Michigan), Vassiliki Fouka (Stanford University), Alexandra Filindra (University of Illinois at Chicago) and Eri Bert-sou (University of St. Gallen).

The HPSA board's future plans include relaunching the association's flagship academic journal, the *Greek Review of Political Science*, and organizing a day-long conference on Democracy and Social Inequalities, scheduled to take place at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens on 30 September 2026. Guest speakers will include Elias Dinas (EUI, Florence), Manos Matsaganis (Politecnico di Milano) and Panos Tsoukalis (Nuffield College, Oxford).

For further information on HPSA, please contact info@hpsa.gr and ankafe@msn.com.

ITALIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



Between Research and Public Engagement

The Italian Political Science Association (*Società Italiana di Scienza Politica*, SISP) was established in 1981, growing out of the Political Science Section of the Italian Association for Political and Social Sciences, which had been founded in 1973 under the leadership of Giovanni Sartori. Today, SISP brings together approximately 600 members and is dedicated to fostering the advancement of the discipline in Italy, while promoting collaboration among scholars both nationally and internationally.

SISP publishes two academic journals: the *Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* (RISP/IPSR), founded in 1971 and published by Cambridge University Press since 2014, and *Italian Political Science*, an open-access journal launched in 2007. In October 2024, SISP welcomed its newly elected President, Franca Roncarolo, alongside a new Executive Committee.

The annual conference itself continues to expand its reach. The 2025 edition in Naples attracted nearly 800 participants and over 840 paper submissions across 14 thematic sections and more than 15 plenary sessions and roundtables. This reflects a steady trend toward internationalization; since 2018, more than half of all panels have been conducted in English, and the official program has been published in English since 2022. Building on this momentum, the 39th Annual Conference will be held from 3-6 September 2026, hosted by the University of Trento.

The association's intellectual life extends well beyond its main events, anchored by 17 Standing Groups. These thematic communities cover the full breadth of political science—from Comparative Politics and International Relations to Political Theory, Gender and Politics, Social Movements, and the European Union, among others. In addition to driving the agenda of the annual conference, these groups regularly organize workshops on key national and international research topics, often in collaboration with international networks like ECPR and IPSA.

In recent months, SISP has also played a prominent role in broader public and scholarly debates, addressing the future of Italian higher education, academic freedom, and the conflict in Gaza and its implications for the international academic community.

Regarding higher education, SISP co-organized a study day in Florence in February 2026 titled [L'Università in discussione](#) (The University under Discussion) alongside the Scuola Normale Superiore and several disciplinary associations. The event convened scholars and institutional representatives to examine the structural challenges and the ongoing reform processes facing Italian universities.

The issue of academic freedom has become a central concern for the association. At the 2025 Annual Conference in Naples, SISP co-organized with ECPR and IPSA a roundtable titled “Academic Freedom at Risk: from Global to Local Challenges”, featuring scholars and representatives from all three associations. Following this dialogue, SISP launched a [dedicated section on its website](#) gathering international resources, guidelines, and tools, focusing closely on the link between precarious employment and research independence.

Additionally, since July 2025, SISP has hosted a pluralist public forum titled [“La scienza politica italiana riflette su Gaza”](#) (*Italian Political Science Reflects on Gaza*). This initiative has produced two formal motions and facilitated a wide range of scholarly contributions regarding the conflict in Gaza's implications for international law, humanitarian law, and academic practice from a range of perspectives within the Italian and international political science community.

Looking ahead, SISP is preparing to welcome the global political science community to Italy as Rome plays host to the 2027 IPSA World Congress of Political Science.



JAPANESE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



The Japanese Political Science Association (JPSA) was founded in Tokyo on 5 November 1948. JPSA has since carved out a place at the center of political studies in Japan, staging annual conferences and publishing *The Annals of Japanese Political Science Association*, one of the most reputable political science journals in the Japanese language. JPSA boasts a membership of almost 1,900.

JPSA is pleased to announce that Osaka Metropolitan University (Japan) will host the JPSA annual conference on 3-4 October 2026, under the theme *The Essence of Contemporary Crises*. The conference will re-examine the inflection

points and choices in world politics during the first quarter of the twenty-first century. In today's world, a diverse array of developments has conspired to undermine the very basis of liberal democracies. These include political polarization, the decline of mainstream political parties, the fall of "liberal" politics, the rise of authoritarianism, and the destabilization of the postwar international order. This session sets out to offer perspectives from which to reconsider the nature of crises playing out to spark discussion on how to rebuild the domestic foundations of liberal democracy and the international order. By revisiting the core features of the problems ranged against us today, with a longer analytical horizon, and situating them within a broader historical context, we hope to deepen the discussion and chart a path forward for democracy at home and abroad.

Visit the [JPSA website](#) for further information.

KOREAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



The Korean Political Science Association (KPSA) has continued to strengthen its role by acting as a bridge between academic research, public debate and policymaking in South Korea. Founded in 1953 and representing more than 2,700 members, KPSA remains committed to promoting scholarly excellence while contributing

to discussions on major political and social challenges facing Korean democracy.

In 2026, KPSA expanded its engagement with both policymakers and the broader public through a series of collaborative initiatives. In partnership with major media organizations, including *The Korea Economic Daily* and *Newspim*, KPSA conducted expert surveys on key political issues facing South Korea. These surveys provided evidence-based assessments of government performance, political reform and policy priorities, while helping to bring scholarly perspectives into public discussions.

KPSA also co-organized a policy forum entitled *Diagnosing and Reforming Korea's Political Institutions* with the Future Policy Institute of Sungkyunkwan University and *JoongAng Ilbo*. The forum, held on 20 May 2026 in Jung-gu, Seoul, brought together scholars, policymakers and opinion leaders to discuss pressing issues such as political polarization,

decentralization, party system reform and electoral reform. Participants examined the structural causes of political division and possible pathways toward more effective and representative democratic governance.

Another notable initiative was a roundtable discussion held at the Fairmont Hotel in Yeouido, Seoul, on 9 April 2026, as part of the 14th Seoul Economic Forum. Drawing on a joint survey of National Assembly members and political scientists, the discussion explored ways to move Korean politics from confrontation toward more pragmatic and policy-oriented governance.

One of KPSA's major academic activities in 2026 is its Summer Conference in Busan, to be held on 18-20 August under the theme *Local Governance and Balanced Development: Challenges Following Korea's Ninth Nationwide Local Elections*. The conference will give scholars an opportunity to examine the future of local democracy, decentralization and regional development in South Korea. Additional information is available on the [KPSA website](#).

Through these activities, KPSA continues to promote rigorous scholarship, meaningful public engagement and informed debate on the future of Korean democracy. Looking ahead, KPSA seeks to further strengthen its partnerships with IPSA and other political science associations around the world, fostering greater international dialogue, scholarly exchange and collaborative research.

MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



XIV Congreso Internacional de Ciencia Política, AMECIP

AUTOCRATIZACIÓN, RETROCESOS DEMOCRÁTICOS
Y CAMBIOS EN EL SISTEMA INTERNACIONAL

XIV International Congress of Political Science 2026

The Mexican Association of Political Science (AMECIP), in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), and the National Electoral Institute (INE), will hold the XIV International Congress of Political Science in Aguascalientes (Mexico) from 22-25 September 2026.

Under the theme *Autocratization, Democratic Backsliding, and Changes in the International System*, the congress will bring together scholars, students and representatives

of public institutions to reflect on the contemporary challenges facing democracies in a context of global political upheaval. Discussion topics will include the erosion of democratic checks and balances, the concentration of power, citizen participation, changes in international governance, and the challenges confronting democratic institutions at different levels of government.

The academic program will feature keynote lectures, special panels, book presentations, face-to-face mentoring sessions for students, research seedbeds, and the Guillermo O'Donnell Chair. In addition, awards will be presented in recognition of academic excellence and the best political science theses of 2026.

The XIV Congress consolidates a plural space for the exchange of ideas, academic discussion, and the development of collaborative networks among specialists from Mexico and beyond. In a context characterized by the reconfiguration of the international system and ongoing debates about challenges facing democracy, AMECIP remains committed to strengthening research, training new generations of political scientists and promoting academic discourse throughout Latin America.

Register to attend on the [AMECIP Congress](#) website.

NORDIC POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

NoPSA

Nordic Political Science Association

The Nordic Political Science Association (NoPSA) is an umbrella organization for national political science associations in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. NoPSA aims to promote political science as a discipline and foster professional cooperation among political scientists in Nordic countries.

New Editor of Scandinavian Political Studies

In cooperation with Wiley, NoPSA publishes *Scandinavian Political Studies* (SPS), a leading journal on politics and public administration in Nordic countries. We are delighted to welcome Professor Mikael Persson of the University of Gothenburg as the new editor of *Scandinavian Political Studies*.

NoPSA Congress

The triennial Nordic Political Science Congress will be held in Tampere (Finland) from 10-13 August 2027. The call for workshop proposals is open until 15 September 2026. Proposals are warmly welcomed and should include a brief description (200-300 words), together with the title and subject of the workshop, its target group and other relevant details, as well as the names and institutional affiliations of the two workshop conveners. Further information is available on the [NoPSA website](#). The call for papers will open later this year.

PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



Since its inception in 1962, the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) has served as the principal professional organization for political scientists in the Philippines. Its vision and mission are to advance political science nationwide and function as a central hub for generating and disseminating knowledge to both the academic community and the broader public. The PPSA has over 200 active regular members and more than 10 institutional members from higher education institutions. It also stages an annual international conference, presented across various regions of the country on a rotating basis. This event draws both domestic and international scholars. The most recent conference, held at Silliman University in the Visayan region from 28-30 April 2026, attracted hundreds of scholars from the Philippines and beyond. The PPSA is currently preparing for its 2027 international conference, scheduled to take place in the Mindanao region in April or May. The 2027 conference will mark the organization's 65th anniversary.

In support of its vision and mission, the association is introducing the PPSA Presidents' Lecture Forum, hosted by institutional members nationwide. As the leading professional organization for political scientists in the Philippines, the PPSA is well positioned to facilitate this dialogue. Drawing on the perspectives of its past presidents, who embody diverse intellectual traditions and experiences, the series traces the evolution of democratic thought and practice,

underscoring the discipline's role in sustaining and reimagining democracy. Regional representatives organize regular lecture caravans to engage with faculty members, students, policymakers and practitioners. These activities reflect the major research thrusts of PPSA members, with the lecture caravans and presidential lectures serving as platforms for research projects on the following topics: (1) dynastic and oligarchic politics; (2) democracy and governance; (3) indigenizing political science and theory; (4) Filipino political psychology; (5) geopolitics and national security; (6) electoral politics; and (7) gender and politics.

Lastly, the *Philippine Political Science Journal* (PPSJ) remains the pre-eminent political science journal in the Philippines and one of the country's most internationally recognized social science publications. Published by Brill for the Philippine Political Science Association, it is indexed in both Scopus and the Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index, reflecting its continued adherence to international publishing standards. The journal upholds a strong reputation for rigorous peer review and scholarship on Philippine politics, governance, political theory, and international relations. PPSJ is institutionally stable and remains the principal venue for high-quality political science research on the Philippines and related regional issues.

POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UK



2027 Annual Conference

Join the PSA in the historic port-city of Hull for this three-day international conference under the theme *Seismic Politics – Impacts and Responses from the Global to the Local*. The University of Hull (UK) will host the event, which will take place on 22-24 March 2027.

The annual PSA conference is a rewarding, popular event for those researching, teaching, studying or practising politics, political studies, international relations and related dis-

ciplines. A valuable opportunity for delegates at all stages of their careers, the event will feature more than 200 panels and over 700 research papers, keynotes, workshops, and professional development opportunities.

"PSA was really great. It gave much-needed exposure to interact with like-minded individuals from different universities" – PSA26 delegate.

Over 1,000 international academics, researchers and professionals are expected to attend the conference, which will give delegates a unique opportunity to share research, exchange ideas and broaden their networks.

Visit the [PSA27 webpage](#) for details and follow PSA on social media ([Bluesky](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) for regular conference updates.

SWISS POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

SVPW ASSP Schweizerische Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft
Association Suisse de Science Politique
Swiss Political Science Association

Annual Congress 2027

You are welcome in beautiful Lucerne (Switzerland) for the Swiss Political Science Association's (SPSA) Annual Congress 2027. Review the latest in political science scholarship while exploring the conference theme *The End of Progress?*

The notion of progress has shaped the political imagination of modern societies for more than two centuries, with democratization, constitutionalism, economic growth, social protection, technological innovation and international cooperation widely viewed as steps forward. Today, this confidence appears shaken. The liberal international order is in decline, as democratic backsliding and polarization have given rise to widespread mistrust in political institutions. Meanwhile, climate change, artificial intelligence, geopolitical fragmentation, mounting public debt, and widening inequalities have constrained the capacity of politics

to respond effectively to this growing list of challenges. Some observers go so far as to suggest that we may be witnessing the end of progress itself.

But is this diagnosis warranted? Or are we instead experiencing a profound transformation of progress extending to its drivers, institutional foundations and normative meaning? The Annual Meeting of the Swiss Political Science Association invites scholars to reflect critically on these questions. Political science offers indispensable tools with which to inform this debate. Its diverse methodological and disciplinary toolkit—experimental and quantitative research, historical-comparative inquiry, interpretive and ethnographic approaches, normative theory, formal modeling and computational analysis—allows practitioners to empirically assess these claims of decline, but also to rethink the conditions under which progress may be sustained or reimaged.

The University of Lucerne will host the event, which runs from 1-2 February 2027. It will feature a keynote by Prof. Ivan Krastev (Sofia, Vienna) along with a full slate of parallel sessions on various sub-disciplines of political science. Visit the [SPSA website](https://www.spsa.ch) for complete details.



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RESEARCH COMMITTEES NEWS

RC04 VISUAL POLITICS

Visual politics, an emerging area of research, involves narrating a story in visual form. RC04 Visual Politics attempts to capture lived experience and its visibility by linking aesthetics and politics. Since its current board took the helm in June 2024, RC04 has been active and academically engaged. As a vibrant research committee, it draws researchers, artists and activists from diverse backgrounds. RC04 hosted five panels at the 2025 IPSA World Congress in Seoul. Congress presenters used unconventional meth-

ods to present their papers, including cartoons and graphic depictions. In December 2024, RC04 held an IPSA Work-in-Progress Session (WiPS) broadly titled “Expressing the Political in Visual Frames”, and on 14-16 July 2026, it will host a workshop on the visual politics of protest at the University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal), jointly organized with Centro de Estudos Internacionais.

RC07 WOMEN AND POLITICS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Since the 2025 IPSA World Congress in Seoul, RC07 activities have revolved around the monthly webinar series launched in January 2024 and the research committee’s first online research conference.

The RC07 Research Conference, titled *Politics of Precarity*, was held on 27-28 February 2026. It featured nine panels and 34 researchers from around the world. The event got underway at 11:30 pm UTC on 27 February and continued until 1:30 pm UTC on 28 February to accommodate time zones from Australia to Argentina. The online conference was aimed at offering alternative venues for people who cannot afford conference travel or for whom travel visas are difficult to secure.

Since the Seoul Congress, our webinar series has featured the following researchers and themes.

2025

- Kanchana N. Ruwanpura, “The Political Economy of Debt in Sri Lanka”, August 2025;
- Anushka Tomar, Key Terms, “Key Battles: Understanding Sexual Violence in Conflicts Through Legal Definitions”, September 2025;
- Débora Thomé, “Problems in the Secret Garden: A Mismatch of Expectations: Female Candidates and Party Leadership”, November 2025.

2026

- Nayara Albrecht, “Unveiling the Usual Suspects: Gender and Political Affiliation in Brazil’s Federal Bureaucracy”, January 2026;
- Prateek Srivastava, “From War to Work: Militarized Industries, Gendered Economies and Respectable Resistance in Post-War Sri Lanka”, February 2026;
- Jean Encinas-Franco, “Resisting Militarist Response to Crisis: Populism, Ontological Security, and Filipino Migrant Nurses under Duterte”, March 2026;
- María Natalia Echegoyemberry, Paula Rojo, Vanina Picardo y Romina Duarte, “Una propuesta para una lectura feminista de la Inteligencia Artificial (IA)”, May 2026;
- Débora Thomé, Furqan Ahmed and Snigdha Tripathi, “Large conferences, big benefits: Yes/ No/ Depends”, June 2026.

Presentations are recorded and archived as a public domain resource at <https://www.youtube.com/@rc07ipsa>. RC07 welcomes pitches for presentations in English, Spanish, French and Arabic on the following topics: gender and development; women in politics; gender, peace and security; gender and democracy; gender, law and human rights. Please send your pitches to <https://cutt.ly/rc07webinar>.

As part of its webinar series, RC07 is presenting a special program of mentoring initiatives ahead of the 2027 IPSA World Congress. The [RC website](#) hosts panel reports from the Seoul Congress and information relating to the upcoming Rome Congress.

To learn more about RC07’s upcoming activities, look for the link to the membership form on the [RC website](#). All IPSA and affiliated political science association members are welcome to join.

RC08 LEGISLATIVE SPECIALISTS

Workshop Parliaments in the Global South: Challenges and Transformations

The National Autonomous University of Mexico and the IPSA Research Committee on Legislative Specialists (RC08) invite submissions for a hybrid workshop titled “Parliaments in the Global South: Challenges and Transformations.” The workshop will be held at UNAM in Mexico City on 6-7 October 2026, with the option to join online via Zoom.

Parliaments across the Global South face significant structural, political and institutional challenges that shape their ability to represent citizens, legislate effectively and hold governments accountable. This workshop will examine how legislatures operate under circumstances involving executive dominance, democratic erosion, authoritarian governance, institutional fragility and eroding public trust.

The workshop aims to advance comparative and interdisciplinary research on legislative politics in the Global South and to develop a coherent set of contributions for an edited volume to be proposed to a leading academic publisher.

RC08 welcomes proposals on legislatures in Africa, Latin America, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and other regions of the Global South. Contributions may focus on single-country cases or comparative perspectives. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged, including in political science, sociology, law and political anthropology.

Possible topics

- Parliaments and democratic backsliding, autocratization and re-democratization
- Executive-legislative relations and institutional asymmetries
- Legislative capacity, professionalization and inequality
- Law-making processes and parliamentary procedures
- Oversight, accountability and control mechanisms
- Representation, inclusion and minority politics
- Citizen engagement, trust and legitimacy
- Informal practices, rituals and legislative culture
- Digitalization, innovation and parliamentary reform

Key Dates

- Abstract submission (300–500 words): 31 July 2026
- Notification of acceptance: early August 2026
- First draft due: mid-September 2026
- Workshop dates: 6-7 October 2026
- Final revised chapter due: 22 January 2027

Abstracts will be evaluated based on scholarly quality, thematic relevance and contribution to the coherence of the collective project. Acceptance will be selective, given the book-oriented nature of the workshop.

Please submit abstracts by completing the following form: <https://forms.gle/VTVu9BSvr2WHVKrg9>.

For further information, please contact Khemvirg Puente (UNAM): khemvirg@unam.mx.

Upcoming Publications

RC08 continues its tradition of producing cutting-edge research on some of the contemporary world’s most pressing political and institutional challenges. Several major publication projects are currently in final stages of development.

Are Legislatures in Decline? Dynamics of Legislative-Executive Relations in Global Perspective

Edited by Irina Khmelko and John Ishiyama, this volume looks at transformations in legislative-executive relations around the world and asks why some legislatures lose authority to populist leaders and powerful presidents while other legislative branches manage to uphold their institutional resilience and maintain their political influence.

Parliaments in Pandemic (PiP)

Edited by Sven Siefken, this volume addresses an important gap in modern research by examining how parliaments function during periods of crisis and emergency governance, including under pandemic conditions. The project analyzes the components of institutional adaptation, democratic accountability and legislative resilience in the event of extraordinary circumstances.

RC09 COMPARATIVE JUDICIAL STUDIES



The Comparative Judicial Studies Research Committee promotes scholarly work on law, courts and judicial processes from a comparative perspective. This includes the study of judicial branches of government as well as legal professions, doctrines, systems and cultures, with a focus on how they relate to constitutions, executives, legislatures, political parties, federalism, political culture, and other sociopolitical dynamics.

New Board

In the Fall of 2025, members elected a new [RC09 Executive Board](#) for the 2025-2029 term. The new board is made up of Chair Ashley Moran (Texas-Austin), treasurer Christopher Zorn (Penn State), and members Cristina Dallara (Bologna), José Mário Wanderley Gomes (UNICAP), Ana Carolina Inojosa (Brazil), Javier Martín Reyes (UNAM), Peter Panutto (PUC-Campinas), Daniela Piana (Bologna), Rebecca Reid (Texas-El Paso), Luigi Rullo (UNINA), and Raúl Sánchez Urribarrí (La Trobe).

2026 Workshop

In the Fall of 2026, the Comparative Judicial Studies Research Committee will hold an international workshop on [Court Roles in the Current Authoritarian Moment](#). The workshop will explore the part played by courts in democratic erosion, authoritarian regimes, war, fragility, power

asymmetries, backlashes against minority and women's rights, gender dynamics, migration, judicial reform, and more. The workshop will be held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico's [Institute for Legal Research](#) in Mexico City on 15-16 October 2026.

Newsletter

Sign up to receive [The Docket](#), RC09's long-standing comparative judicial studies newsletter. Published twice a year, the newsletter is a font of information on upcoming events, activities and other news. Subscribe to the [RC newsletter](#) today!

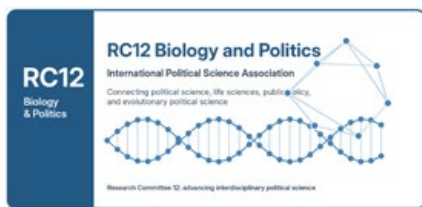
Book Repository

Submit your work to the new repository of books and special issues published by RC09 members. If you are or have been a member of RC09, you can [submit your books and special issues](#) published in any year, whether recently or in the past. Please submit a separate form for each book or special issue. We will include these in the next IPSA RC09 newsletter and on the IPSA RC09 website to maintain a repository of books and special issues published by members of our research committee.

Membership

Any IPSA member may join the Comparative Judicial Studies Research Committee at no cost. Please visit [RC09 website](#) to join. RC09 welcomes the participation of scholars from other disciplines in our programs and activities, as we encourage comparative research on judicial systems across disciplines.

RC12 BIOLOGY AND POLITICS



Advancing an Interdisciplinary Research Agenda

RC12 Biology and Politics continues to provide an international forum for scholars working at

the interface between political science, life sciences, public policy and evolutionary political science. The committee welcomes research that probes how biological, evolutionary, physiological, ethical and institutional perspectives can deepen political analysis without reducing politics to biology.

Within this wider agenda, a recent scholarly output is the publication of a chapter by RC12 co-chairs Ryuta Ito and Tony Wohlers in the book project *Perspectives on Reglobalization: Insights from Political Science*, edited by Carmelo Cattafi and published by Springer Cham. Titled "Biopolitics and Evolutionary Political Science: Tracing Evolution, Current Trends, and Envisioning Future Directions," the chapter was published online on 21 March 2026. It surveys the development, current state and future directions of biopolitics and evolutionary political science, highlighting how interdisciplinary approaches can clarify issues such as

political behaviour, self-deception, conflict, war and decision-making amid uncertainty.

RC12's broader research agenda includes bioethics, health policy, trust in public health, reproductive and genetic technologies, biotechnology, biosecurity, agricultural and environmental policy, climate-related human security, emotions, cognition, leadership, cooperation, intolerance, polarization, political violence, terrorism and war. It also encourages laboratory, survey, comparative, historical, interpretive, experimental and mixed-method approaches for assessing relationships between biological processes and political outcomes.

Recognized as an IPSA RC in 1975, RC12 aims to foster ties between political scientists, political psychologists, international relations scholars, public policy researchers, life scientists, clinicians, bioethicists, security scholars, environmental researchers, philosophers, historians, communication scholars, and legal scholars. Scholars at all career stages are invited to participate in panels, workshops, publications, collaborative projects and comparative research initiatives. Those interested in joining or learning more may consult the [IPSA RC12 profile](#) and the [Springer chapter](#).

RC18 ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES



New Initiatives in the Lead-up to the 2027 IPSA World Congress

With preparations for the 2027 IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Rome now well underway, RC18 on Asian and Pacific Studies is pleased to announce a set of new initiatives aimed at strengthening scholarly cooperation, promoting academic excellence, and expanding research agendas on Asia and the Pacific in a rapidly changing global order.

Under the co-chairship of Prof. Alexandre Coelho and Prof. Angelin Chang, RC18 has been working to consolidate its role as a dynamic international forum for scholars interested in Asian and Pacific studies, international political economy, geopolitics, regional transformations, and the ever-changing architecture of world politics.

The Dr. Teh-Kuang Chang Award in Asian and Pacific Studies

RC18 is pleased to highlight the continued development of the Dr. Teh-Kuang Chang Award in Asian and Pacific Studies, an initiative led by Angelin Chang.

Created in honour of Dr. Teh-Kuang Chang, the esteemed founder of RC18, the award recognizes outstanding scholarly contributions to the field of Asian and Pacific studies. It celebrates high-quality research conducted as part of RC18 activities and encourages established scholars and emerging researchers alike to contribute to the advancement of knowledge on Asia, the Pacific and their broader significance in global politics.

Through this initiative, RC18 reaffirms its commitment to academic excellence, intergenerational scholarly dialogue, and the recognition of innovative research on Asian and Pacific affairs.

Workshop on International Political Economy and Asia

RC18 and RC51 International Political Economy are jointly organizing an online workshop on Political Economy and Asia, planned for late January or early February 2027, in cooperation with RC51 Co-Chairs, Prof. Vinicius Vieira and Prof. Eduardo Viola.

Participants will discuss Asia's role in contemporary global transformations, including in trade, investment, finance, technology, supply chains, development strategies, regional integration, and the interaction between geopolitics and international political economy.

This initiative aims to strengthen dialogue between Asia and international political economy scholars and promote cooperation between RC18 and RC51.

RC18 Book Project Committee

RC18 has formed an independent Book Project Committee to develop publication opportunities on Asia and global political transformations in conjunction with the 2027 IPSA World Congress in Rome.

The committee is engaging with potential publishers and exploring suitable formats, themes and editorial strategies in an effort to bring together scholars working on Asian and Pacific studies, international political economy, geopolitics, regional change and world politics. The initiative is geared toward the RC18 academic community. Interested scholars are expected to become regular RC18 members and registered members of IPSA.

On the whole, the project seeks to strengthen cooperation between RC18 members, heighten the visibility of Asia-Pacific research, and produce a lasting scholarly contribution to debates on Asia's role in global political transformation.

For further information on RC18 initiatives and upcoming activities, please contact the RC18 Co-Chairs:

Alexandre Coelho at alexandre.coelho2022@gmail.com, and Angelin Chang at angelinchang@gmail.com.

RC19 GENDER POLITICS AND POLICY

[RC19 Gender Politics and Policy](#) will support the participation of researcher Mariana Caminotti (UNSAM, Argentina) in the roundtable “The Research Agenda on Gender, Race, Sexuality and Politics: An Assessment from Latin America,” linked to AT06 – Gender, Democracy and Public Policy of the [Brazilian Political Science Association](#) (BPSA) at the 15th BPSA Conference to be held in Belém do Pará (Brazil) in August 2026. The session will see scholars from different regions gather to reflect on the development, contributions and future directions of research on gender, race, sexuality and politics across Latin America.

At the same conference, RC19 will be associated with the in-person workshop “Research on Gender in Political Science: Questionnaire Design, Gender-Sensitive Methodologies, and Dissemination Strategies.” Participants will collaborate on the development of a questionnaire on gender and politics, combining methodological reflection with practical group work. Discussions will revolve around conceptual choices, methodological challenges, and strategies for applying gender-sensitive research instruments while strengthening academic networks and encouraging future collaborative research initiatives.

RC19 is also developing a new series of methodological seminars with a focus on research in the area of anti-gender and anti-feminist politics. These sessions are designed to foster open conversations about the realities of conducting research in challenging environments. Topics will include researcher vulnerability, fieldwork in hostile contexts, and the ethical dimensions involved in studying actors who may contest gender equality and democratic inclusion. The series seeks to connect scholars at different career stages and from various countries and epistemic traditions across the broad field of gender politics.

Upcoming sessions will address emotional and ethical labour in research, positionality and knowledge production, as well as researcher vulnerability, surveillance, and the long-term risks associated with public dissemination. Scholars interested in contributing as speakers, interviewers or participants are invited to submit a short informal abstract (200–300 words) and a brief bio (100 words) to ipsa.rc19@gmail.com.

RC20 POLITICAL FINANCE AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION



2026 Biannual Meeting in Lisbon

RC20 on Political Finance and Political Corruption held its 2026 biannual meeting at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais of the Universidade de Lisboa in Lisbon (Portugal) from 30 March to 1 April 2026. The event brought together scholars from across the globe for two days of intensive and highly interactive discussions on corruption, integrity, political finance and democratic governance. The meeting confirmed RC20's position as one of the leading international forums for comparative research on political corruption and integrity systems.

Across eight thematic sessions, participants explored a wide range of contemporary challenges, including sexual corruption, revolving doors, whistleblower protection, electoral integrity, political scandals, state-owned enterprises, AI and governance, anti-bribery conventions and campaign finance regulation. A recurring theme throughout the conference was the persistent gap between formal rules and effective implementation, with several contributions demonstrating that legal and institutional reforms alone are insufficient without political will, administrative capacity and public trust.

The meeting also stood out for the high quality of its scholarly exchanges. Most papers benefited from dedicated discussants who engaged deeply with presenters' theoretical

frameworks, methods and findings, offering detailed and constructive feedback. Senior scholars provided valuable guidance to early-career researchers, while informal discussions continued during coffee and lunch breaks, thereby fostering the kind of collegial and collaborative atmosphere that is often difficult to replicate at larger conferences. Participants also had the chance to discuss future comparative projects and research partnerships, sowing the seeds for new international collaborations within the RC20 network.

Building on the success of the Lisbon meeting, RC20 is currently preparing a special issue in the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* dedicated to political finance, corruption and integrity governance. The issue will feature selected contributions from the conference and further strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue on comparative approaches to integrity and anti-corruption research.

Concurrently, RC20 has already begun preparations for the 2027 IPSA World Congress in Rome. Picking up on the debates initiated in Lisbon, RC20 seeks to advance comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives on democratic integrity and the daunting challenges posed by disinformation and AI-driven manipulation, illicit transnational financial flows and foreign interference, regulatory capture, weakening trust in core institutions of democracy, and the gradual erosion of multilateral cooperation and international enforcement mechanisms that have traditionally supported accountability across borders. Future panels at the 2027 IPSA World Congress will foster a broader discussion on the resilience of democratic institutions amid growing uncertainty, by focusing on these global challenges to democratic integrity and the capacity of anti-corruption frameworks to adapt to rapidly changing political environments.

RC21 POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION AND EDUCATION



International Scientific Conference

On 16-17 April 2026, the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin (Poland) hosted the international scientific conference *Migration Movements in the Contemporary World*. The event was organized by the Department of Political Movements and Ethnic Studies at the Institute of Political Science and Administration of UMCS, in cooperation with IPSA RC21 Political Socialization and Education. The conference was chaired by Prof. Maria Marczevska-Rytko, with Dr. Dorota Maj and Mr. Jakub Bijak serving as conference secretaries. The event was officially opened by Prof. Magdalena Musiał-Karg, Vice-President of the International Political Science Association; Prof. Katarzyna Radzik-Maruszak, Director of the Institute of Political Science and Administration at UMCS; and Prof. Maria Marczevska-Rytko, Head of the Department of Political Movements and Ethnic Studies and Chair of IPSA RC21.

The conference drew more than 60 scholars from leading universities, research centres and institutions associated with socio-economic practices in Poland, along with representatives of academic institutions from various parts of Europe and the world, including from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Israel, the United Kingdom and Hungary. Such broad academic representation paved the way for an exchange of experiences and the presentation of diverse research perspectives.

The conference's core objective was to present the results of the latest research and host an interdisciplinary discussion on migration movements in the contemporary world. The thematic scope included both theoretical and methodological analyses, and discussions covered the determinants and legal aspects of migration, with special attention on local, national and international migration policies and the impact of migration on states, regions and the global system. Discussions also addressed public attitudes and responses to migration on the part of social, religious and political organizations, the role of social and political movements, media representations of migration, and models and initiatives supporting the integration of migrants and foreign nationals.

The cultural events presented as part of the conference served as an important complement to the scientific program. Participants learned about the migration heritage of Lublin, which helped frame the issues discussed during the conference within a broader historical and cultural context.

The photo report from the event is available on the [UMCS website](#).

RC25 POLITICS OF HEALTH POLICY

Launch of *Health Politics*

The inaugural edition of *Health Politics*, a Gold Open Access quarterly published by Korea University, was issued in March 2026 in partnership with IPSA Research Committee 25 (RC25) on the Politics of Health Policy. Co-edited by Haejoo Chung (Korea University) and Carles Muntaner (University of Toronto), the journal foregrounds power, rather than health outcomes alone, as its central analytical category, spanning political science, political economy, political sociology and public health with a deliberate quantitative and mixed-method edge.

Issue 1 (March 2026) opened with an essay (Chung & Muntaner) situating the field within the current global interregnum, alongside a gender-based equity tool (Gunn et al.), a study of French primary care reform (Hassenteufel & Moyal) and a critical review of commercial determinants of health (McNamara & Crosbie).

Issue 2 (June 2026) featured an essay on neoliberalism and health (Bambra & Schrecker), a scoping review defining the field (Chung), and the launch of the *National Health Politics* (NHP) series, with comparative analyses of Korea (Shin), Japan (Matsuda) and Taiwan (Huang).

Issue 3 (September 2026) will add an article on the philosophy of science for health politics (Muntaner), a review of far-right populism and health in Europe (Backhaus-Hoven), a Web-scraping methods article launching our new *Health Politics Methods* series (Galvez-Hernandez), and a National Health Politics (NHP) article on Sweden (Burstrom).

With Gold Open Access and no article processing charges, the journal warmly invites RC25 colleagues to read, review and submit via hpolitics.org.

Call for Seminar Series Presenters

RC25 is planning its 2027 seminar series. Scholars studying the politics of health policy are invited to submit their seminar proposals. Seminars will be held online via Zoom, with presentations lasting 40 minutes, followed by a 20-minute audience Q&A. Examples of topics include the commercial determinants of health, theories of the policy process applied to a current case study, interest group analyses, and health system transformation. Also invited to submit their ideas for presentations are senior scholars with lessons to share on the science, methods and observations concerning the politics of health policy over the last decade or more. Please email the RC25 Secretary at fyhuang1981@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, contact information, current position and organization, publication list, topic title and a few sentences outlining the nature of the presentation.

New LinkedIn (please join)

RC25 Politics of Health Policy has a new [LinkedIn account](#) through which it issues news updates and promotes events. IPSA members are welcome to join the group.

RC26 HUMAN RIGHTS

Throughout 2026, IPSA RC26 on Human Rights reaffirmed its commitment to advancing human rights scholarship and international academic cooperation, and promoting a global culture of peace. In a year marked by the 60th anniversary of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations' proclamation of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, RC26 emphasized the importance of solidarity, multilateralism, democratic values and civic engagement in addressing contemporary global challenges.

Under the leadership of Chair Alex Sander Xavier Pires, Chair-Elect Anju Gupta, Vice-Chair Jędrzej Skrzypczak, and Secretary Furqan Ahmed, and with the active participation of board members, RC26 significantly expanded its academic and institutional contributions within the IPSA community. One of the committee's major achievements was its contribution to the [IPSA Companion to Political Science](#), with four entries on key contemporary debates in human rights and political science. These contributions reinforced RC26's commitment to producing accessible and internationally relevant scholarship.

RC26 also promoted intellectual exchange through the organization of an IPSA Work-in-Progress Session (WiPS) on "Disinformation and Human Rights," which saw

researchers gather from different regions and academic traditions to discuss the impact of misinformation, digital manipulation, and technological transformation on democratic institutions and fundamental rights.

Another important contribution was RC26's participation in IPSA's collective publication project on deglobalization and reglobalization, offering critical reflections on the relationship between global transformations, democracy, governance, and the protection of human rights in an increasingly complex international environment.

In addition to these initiatives, RC26 continued to organize conferences, seminars, webinars and collaborative research activities that foster dialogue among scholars from diverse regions and perspectives. The committee also took part in the XII International Congress of Law in the Lusophone World, held in Brasília in April 2026. This event featured discussions on ethics, justice, democracy and human rights, culminating in the approval of the Brasília Charter reaffirming the importance of ethical principles, institutional integrity, and the protection of vulnerable groups within contemporary justice systems. Further strengthening its engagement with the IPSA community, RC26 co-organized, together with RC50 The Politics of Language, the special panel "Language Minority Rights: Challenges of Pluralism"

as part of the 2026 IPSA Research Committees Colloquium organized by IPSA RC14 Politics and Ethnicity in collaboration with eight other RCs and held in Bolzano (Italy) from 23-26 June 2026 under the theme *Minorities under Siege: Pluralist Societies Facing Pluralist Challenges*.

Looking ahead, RC26 plans to further expand its publication projects, academic events, and collaborative research initiatives. Complete details on RC26 activities, publications, events and member contributions can be found in the Newsletter and on the [RC26 website](#).

In summary, two major events have been confirmed: a conference on *Contemporary Problems of the Concept of*

Human Rights to be held in October, and a conference on *Culture of Peace and Human Rights* scheduled for December. Both events are being organized by RC26 in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Lisbon, Ratio Legis, and JUSGOV.

RC26 extends its sincere thanks to all members whose engagement, scholarly excellence and active participation continue to strengthen the committee as a vibrant and impactful international research community dedicated to human rights, democracy and peace.

RC28 COMPARATIVE FEDERALISM AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

A Critical Note on the Neo-Populist Threats

Neo-populism, in varied guises, has emerged as an existential threat to democracies the world over. Though populism, a mode of politics often associated with the rise of what Max Weber called “charismatic personality,” is nothing new, democracies, particularly representative democracies, have often been associated with better functioning institutions and delivery of services and goods. In the last three decades, however, the situation has changed. With the radical recasting of global capitalism and its attendant ill-effects, different brands of populism, largely personalized and authoritarian, have posed a considerable challenge to the normative edifice and institutional ecosystem of liberal democracies and federalism, rendering democratic recovery difficult, in most cases. Neo-populist brands of politics are diverse and, in some cases, have acquired strange characteristics: Neo-populism has been used to set new welfare policy agendas, promote pro-people and anti-elite rhetoric, centralize power away from branches of government in federal democracies, further subjugate gender equity by making it indistinguishable from the “rights of the people,” and place populist leaders above the institutions of government, including party systems. In short, neo-populism has ushered in a brand of personality politics, with Donald Trump and Narendra Modi serving as prime exemplars.

RC28 will present an IPSA Work-in-Progress Session (WIPS) (13-19 July 2026) featuring detailed empirical cases across the West and the Global South. Some 10 researchers will bring differing perspectives to bear on the “Neo-Populist Threat to Federal Democracy.” The researchers will provide a wealth of empirical data and analysis covering the following areas of interest: the impact of populist electoral campaign on sovereignty; the marginalization of gender concerns; the misuse of public resources and financing for short-term neo-populist politics; the autocratization of politics within democracies; the strange effects of neo-liberal reforms in producing the space for “freebie politics”; and the generalized weakening of institutional and normative structures of federalism and democracy.

The online workshop scheduled from 13-19 July 2026 is expected to produce the following outcomes:

- Identification of varied forms of neo-populist politics;
- Il-effects of neo-populism on the very notion of politics;
- Links between neo-populist politics and the contradictions of neo-liberal capitalism;
- The specific context-based rise of neo-populist politics;
- Short-term benefits of neo-populism for the socially and economically marginalized.

RC33 THE STUDY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AS A DISCIPLINE

New Book Series

RC33 is launching a new book series aimed at providing more global perspectives on the discipline, including on its evolution, opportunities and challenges, while contributing to the development of research and teaching in political science and related (sub)disciplines (e.g. international relations, public policy, public administration, area studies) through the study of factors and contexts that shape inputs and outcomes in political research.

The series welcomes volumes with single or multiple authorship (including edited volumes), with a focus on topics that fall within the scope of RC33. Typical volumes are expected to explore the history and impact of professional associations in political science and related (sub)disciplines; methods and theoretical approaches for studying political scientists and political science as a discipline; case studies or comparative analyses of stakeholders relevant to the development of political research; teaching in political science and related (sub)disciplines or in specific areas relevant to political research (e.g. civic culture, education for democracy, diversity and inclusion); and the impact and legacy of various institutions or personalities relevant to the development of political science and related (sub)disciplines. In the next five years, we encourage proposals on the use of AI in scientific research; funding regimes in political science; political pressures on political science teaching and research; comparative analyses of institutional and curricular design of political science departments/faculties;

and canon-building in political science and/or related disciplines. We would also like to publish periodic country-wide or regional-level surveys, specific surveys in linguistic areas of political science and related (sub)disciplines, as well as results of global surveys on the state of political science.

Complete details and a proposal form are available on the [RC33 website](#).

Working Group on AI in Political Science

IPSA members are invited to join RC33's new working group on AI in political science. AI has already exerted a significant impact on society and science, holding out the promise of groundbreaking advances. At the same time, its use has given rise to major ethical and scientific integrity concerns stemming from the fact that it remains largely unregulated, including in political research and teaching. The working group aims to develop research and publications, teaching tools, and guidelines on the use of AI in political science and related (sub)disciplines. The first meeting will take place online in 24-27 September 2026. A follow-up hybrid working session will be also hosted at the University of Bucharest (Romania), in conjunction with *SCOPE: Science of Politics*, the 10th international interdisciplinary conference of political research in Spring 2027.

Complete details and a membership access form are available on the [RC33 website](#).



RC34 QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY



Renewing Networks and Building the Agenda towards Rome 2027

RC34 Quality of Democracy has opened a new organizational cycle with its board for the 2025–2027 term. The Board was elected at the IPSA World Congress in Seoul. Chaired by Dr. José Veríssimo Romão Netto, with Giuliano Guidi Braga serving as Secretary, the Board is made up of the following members: Dr. Merve Çalimli Akgün, Prof. Pratip Chattopadhyay, Dr. Anja Mihr, Prof. Isaac Owusu-Mensah, Prof. Paulina Pospieszna, Prof. Jesús Tovar and Prof. Brigitte Weiffen. The board members and scholars hail from Brazil, Portugal, Turkey, India, Germany, Ghana, Poland, Mexico and the United Kingdom, respectively. This transregional composition consolidates RC34 as a space for comparative, theoretical and empirical dialogue on democratic quality.

The 2027 IPSA World Congress in Rome, under the theme *Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System*, frames the intellectual scope of RC34's agenda. Various factors—geopolitical instability, digital authoritarianism, rising inequalities, populist backlash and the growing influence of non-state actors—are redefining the conditions under which democratic institutions ensure legitimacy, accountability, inclusion and responsiveness. RC34 addresses this landscape by treating democratic quality as an analytical framework and asking a practical question: how can democracies be assessed and renewed when the very meanings and promises of democracy are increasingly contested?

In July 2026, RC34 contributed to IPSA-WiPS through the section “Quality of Democracy, Autocratization and Democratic Resilience,” co-organised with RC13 – Democratization in Comparative Perspective. This initiative sparked a comparative discussion on democratic performance, institutional resilience and the procedural, substantive and societal dimensions of democratic quality, while strengthening inter-RC cooperation.

In March 2026, RC34 presented a two-day national seminar titled *Socio-Political Flux in South Asia: Regime Change, Recalibrating Geopolitical Dynamics and Resetting Balance of Power*, in collaboration with the Central University of Jharkhand's Department of International Relations and the Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI). The event positioned South Asia as a leading hub for the study of regime change, democratic fragility and geopolitical realignment, thus expanding RC34's dialogue with Global South scholarship.

Looking ahead to November of 2026, RC34 will present the seminar titled *Quality of Democracy and Contestations of the Liberal Script: Trust, Autocratic Appeal and Democratic Resilience* in collaboration with the University of São Paulo, the DeAppeal consortium, and the SCRIPTS Contestations of the Liberal Script cluster. The event, which will take place in Brazil, will honour the intellectual legacies of José Álvaro Moisés and Leonardo Morlino, former IPSA Executive Committee member and IPSA Past President, respectively. Together with IPSA Past President Marianne Kneuer, the two men founded RC34. Their work will be revisited as a living agenda for understanding how democratic quality can be defended when liberal democracy is contested through institutions, inequalities and disputes over truth and authority.

We warmly invite scholars interested in the quality, fragility and renewal of democracy to join our activities and contribute to a vibrant program at Rome 2027. Further information is available on the [RC34 website](#).

RC36 POLITICAL POWER

RC36 on Political Power presented six panels on the following topics at the 2025 IPSA World Congress in Seoul: Environmental Governance and Power; Crisis and Power; Power Dynamics in Resisting Autocratization in Polarized Societies: The Role of Climate Change; Topics in Soft Power; Theorizing Gender and Power; and Resisting Autocratization in Polarized Societies: Lessons from Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and Beyond.

The RC36 Interim Conference was held at Loughborough University in London (UK) on 28-29 May 2026. Co-organized by Spencer John (Governor RC36) and Giulio M. Gallarotti (Co-Chair), the event featured 12 paper presentations on the theme *What is the Future of Political Power*.

RC36 will participate in the 2026 IPSA Work-in-Progress Sessions (WiPS), held virtually 13-19 July 2026 with a unit on “Reconceptualizing Political Power in the Global South: Structures, Configurations, and Scalar Transformation.” The convenor is Chhavi Saini (Secretary RC36).

RC36 would also like to announce two important upcoming publications: the *Handbook of Political Power*, edited by Mark Haugaard and Giulio M. Gallarotti, Edward Elgar Press, (latest research from leading scholars on political power theory); and the *Handbook of Political Power in International Relations*, edited by Giulio M. Gallarotti and Judit Trunkos, Routledge Press (latest research from leading scholars on power in international politics).

RC37 RETHINKING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND RC40 NEW WORLD ORDERS?

RC37 Rethinking Political Development, in collaboration with RC40 New World Orders?, continues to expand its global reach by connecting political science research with public governance, inter-regional cooperation and global policy challenges. To build on the success of their joint 2026 International Symposium held in Acapulco (Mexico) in April 2026, the two committees are already preparing a new series of collaborative academic and policy-oriented initiatives scheduled for late 2026 and 2027.

Organized in partnership with the Instituto Internacional de Estudios Políticos Avanzados (IIEPA-IMA-UAGro) and the Autonomous University of Guerrero, the April symposium drew a diverse group of scholars, public officials, practitioners and students from multiple regions to examine how interregional cooperation can drive political and socio-economic development.

Fostering Dialogue and Practical Governance

The symposium highlighted the growing role of these research committees in promoting academic diplomacy and leveraging scholarly collaboration as a powerful tool for strengthening dialogue across institutions, regions and governance systems. Participants engaged in deep discussions on geopolitical transformations, climate resilience, public administration innovation, social inclusion, sustainable development and emerging security challenges. The opening keynote by Prof. Jesús Tovar set the tone for the event, emphasizing the pressing need to build bridges between distinct institutions, nations and research communities.

The symposium’s academic architecture and intellectual leadership were reinforced by Peter Rada, Chair of RC40, and Yan Vaslavskiy, Chair of RC37. Seamless coordination by Prof. Tovar, alongside Ms. Laura Mondragón and



the IIEPA-IMA-UAGro leadership team, successfully linked academic reflection with real-world institutional engagement. A major component of this practical outreach was the executive workshop on National Security and the Environment delivered to mayors and senior public officials from the State of Guerrero. This workshop explored decision-making processes in complex contexts through comparative public administration perspectives inspired by Canadian and Québec governance practices, perfectly reflecting RC37’s dedication to bridging scholarly research with practical governance.

Looking Toward the Future

Building on this momentum, RC37 and RC40 are currently developing additional interregional activities focused on climate resilience, governance innovation, public leadership and international cooperation. Preparatory discussions are underway for future collaborative panels, thematic workshops and policy-oriented exchanges specifically tied to the upcoming 2027 IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Rome. Members and interested parties are encouraged to follow upcoming IPSA announcements and official committee communications for updates and participation opportunities.

RC39 WELFARE STATE AND DEVELOPING SOCIETIES

Propose Panels and Papers for the Rome World Congress

These are interesting times for people studying the Welfare State and Developing Societies (RC39). Beyond the substantive social and political issues that have increasingly demanded discussion in academia and inclusion on the political agenda, the growing ease of access to information presents opportunities to apply traditional and innovative research methods to social policy analysis.

Looking ahead to the IPSA World Congress in Rome, RC39 encourages all its members (and other interested parties) to propose panels and papers.

Undoubtedly, important changes are being wrought to social policies and welfare regimes around the world—all in conjunction with political movements common to countries worldwide. These changes have included shifts in the ideological spectrum of governments and legislatures, disputes between new technologies and traditional modes of governance, and innovations in social policy designs at subnational and national levels. RC39 encourages theoretically informed studies drawing on diverse methodological approaches to social policy and policy processes at national, subnational or comparative levels. How are different countries (and local governments) responding to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and to differing patterns of political competition, mass disinformation, and the power of artificial intelligence and information technologies? How are governments in developing societies dealing with long-standing problems of inequality and access to rights in response to emerging demands?



RC39's objective is to bring together people interested in welfare and social policy issues from diverse theoretical and methodological approaches, with a focus on actors, institutions, processes, ideas, discourses, etc. The research committee looks forward to welcoming participants in Rome.

RC39 board members (2023-2027):

Chair: Prof. Natália Sátyro (Brazil)

Vice-Chair: Prof. Dr. Prakash Sarangi (India)

Secretary: Prof. Walter Carnota (Argentina)

Board members: Prof. Asha Gupta, University of Delhi (India); Prof. Stein Kuhnle, University of Bergen (Norway); Prof. André Laliberté, University of Ottawa (Canada); and Prof. Lenaura Lobato, Universidade Federal Fluminense (Brazil).

RC41 GEOPOLITICS

Newsletter

The RC41 Geopolitics committee spent much of the fall of 2025 planning and developing an original newsletter. This initiative is intended to support researchers in geopolitics and international relations in a spirit of inclusivity and integration. RC41 acknowledges that academic opportunities within the field of geopolitics struggle with visibility issues. In order to heighten visibility and expand the range of opportunities, RC41 aims to provide a platform for calls for papers, conference and workshop announcements, research opportunities and other academic activities from all over the world through its newsletter. Given that geopolitics intersects with other important fields, RC41 also includes content on related topics. The first issue of the newsletter was published in December 2025, the second in February 2026. This initiative will continue considering

the positive feedback received thus far. The newsletter is distributed once or twice per semester via a mailing list, depending on the available opportunities. Please visit the [RC41 website](#) to subscribe.

Upcoming Event

Stay tuned for RC41's upcoming event 8th International Workshop on Beyond Borders: Emerging Concepts, Theories, and Methods in Political Geography and Geopolitics, which will be presented by the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb (Croatia) from 9-11 October 2026.

RC43 RELIGION AND POLITICS

[RC43 Religion and Politics](#) welcomes IPSA members who work in the broad-ranging fields of religion and politics, specifically in comparative politics, international relations, peacebuilding, postcolonial studies and political theory. Particularly welcome are early-career researchers from the Global South. Persons wishing to join are invited to send an email to ipsareligionpolitics@gmail.com.

RC43 is pleased to report that it will co-host an international symposium and workshop based on its participation in the IPSA Work-in-Progress Sessions (WiPS) on “Religion and Nationalism in Global Politics.” This event will be presented at the International Christian University in Tokyo (Japan) on 10-11 December 2026. Details on the symposium, including on its guest keynote speakers, will be posted at <https://subsite.icu.ac.jp/ssri/en/ssri-igc/ay2026/ay2026-ssri-igc-icu.html>. Please see the workshop theme below.

Nationalism is conventionally understood to be a modern political ideology. It is viewed by many as an intrinsically

secular phenomenon associated with the replacement of dynastic and theocratic rule with sovereign state rule. For many social theorists, nationalism replaced religion, becoming the “civil religion” of the nation. That said, the rise of religious nationalism in recent years, not only in the Global South and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) but also in the West, has called into question this secular narrative of the nation. Within democratic and authoritarian political systems, populist leaders have explicitly drawn on religion and religious symbols to mobilize popular support for nationalist agendas. Moreover, increased religious pluralism in many parts of the world, including in Latin America, Africa and Asia, has been coupled with stronger claims on the narrative of national identity and culture by religious minorities.

This workshop will draw on empirical case studies and theoretical insights to examine the relationship between religion and national identity in global politics. The workshop papers will form the basis of an edited volume in a potential book series.

RC44 SECURITY, CONFLICT, AND DEMOCRATIZATION



At the 2025 IPSA World Congress in Seoul, RC44 presented 20 panels and elected a new Executive Board. Elected to the Board as Chair, Vice-Chairs and Executive Secretary, respectively, were Prof. Hamdy A. Hassan (Zayed University), Profs. James Scott (University of Eastern Finland) and Sérgio Luiz Cruz Aguilar (Universidade Estadual Paulista), and Prof. Shaimaa Moheyeldin (Cairo University). The board's complete membership is available on the [RC44 webpage](#).

In 2026, RC44 expanded its international network by staging events addressing the concerns of the Global South and the broader international community. In March 2026, the committee convened the conference *Rethinking the Politics of Climate Change and Global Insecurities*, presented at Nagasaki University (Japan) and online. Specialists in climate change, conflict and security gathered for this event to examine how environmental stress, displacement and inequality fuel political instability. These activities reflect RC44's increasing focus on non-traditional security.

In collaboration with RC52, RC44 will host the international conference *Reimagining the Post-Westphalian Era: Climate Crisis and Networked Security* in São Paulo (Brazil) from 3-6 August 2026. The conference is expected to attract

scholars from multiple disciplines to discuss networked security, global governance, climate-driven conflict, and the transformation of sovereignty and state authority in the context of global interdependence.

Looking ahead to the 2027 IPSA World Congress in Rome, RC44 will issue its call for papers in the fall of 2026. The call will be organized around four priority themes:

- Democratic resilience and democratic backsliding in contexts of armed conflicts and protracted crises;
- Non-state armed actors, hybrid governance and the privatization of coercion, with a focus on maritime and chokepoint security;
- Religion, identity and political authority in transitions and in conflict-affected societies; and
- National security in the digital era—cyber threats, artificial intelligence, disinformation, digital sovereignty, and the implications of emerging technologies for democratic governance and strategic stability.

Scholars studying these themes are encouraged to participate in RC44's program in Rome. The committee invites proposals for joint panels with other research committees and encourages early-career scholars to participate

through the mentoring track at Rome 2027. Membership renewals and new affiliations are available throughout the year via the RC44 page on the IPSA website.

Selected recent publications by board members:

- Aguilar, S., & Aparecido, J. (2025). "Civil wars and armed groups under COVID-19". *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 36(6), 1164–1206.

- Aguilar, S., & Aparecido, J. (2026). "UN Peacekeeping Operations in Confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic". *International Journal of Strategic Communication*, 1–24.
- Hassan, H. A. (2025). "Climate Crises and the Future of Conflicts in Africa: The Horn of Africa". In *Rethinking Climate Change, Security and Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hassan, H. A. (2025). "Egypt's Water Policy and the GERD". In *Nile Basin Politics*. Edward Elgar.

RC46 MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Collaboration with IMISCOE

RC46 and the International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) are working to strengthen collaboration between both networks to promote interaction among scholars with shared research concerns and increase the visibility of each academic community.

As a first joint initiative, both parties commit to promoting reciprocal roundtables and panels at their upcoming conferences:

- During the next IMISCOE Annual Conference 2027 in Brussels, RC46 will propose a panel or workshop highlighting this collaboration;

- In preparation for the IPSA World Congress 2027 in Rome, IMISCOE will launch an internal call aimed at organizing a roundtable connected to RC46 themes and activities.

The purpose of these initiatives is to encourage cross-network participation, foster academic exchange, and motivate members of both communities to contribute to each other's events and research agendas.

The first joint roundtable will include a dedicated brainstorming session aimed at discussing a possible medium-term working plan and identifying future collaborative activities for the coming years.

RC48 ADMINISTRATIVE CULTURE

The current Board of RC48 was elected in 2023. Its members include Dr. Ashok Basu (Chair), Dr. Saraswathi Unni, Ms. Kinga Feenstra, Dr. Jayanta Sarmah, Dr. Alexander Sokolov, Dr. Shane Mohammed, and Dr. A. Ranjith Kumar.

2023 IPSA World Congress

During the 2023 World Congress in Buenos Aires (Argentina), RC48 panelists from Ecuador, Russia, France, Brazil, Japan, Argentina, Peru and South Africa covered a range of issues, including educational reform, digital ecosystems, whistleblowing culture, gender quotas, labour rights, the rise of an efficient bureaucracy, gender parity and inclusive participation. The panels stood out by virtue of their diversity of nationalities and the range of issues that they covered.

IPSA's 75th Anniversary Conference

RC48 held a panel at the IPSA's 75th Anniversary Conference in Portugal in 2024 with papers on the following topics: "Administrative Responses to Democratic Backsliding"; "Assessing the Impact of Digital Literacy on E-Governance Services"; "Reshaping AI Governance"; "Decoloniality and the Quest for Justice as Fairness"; and "Administrative Guided Financial Sector in an Authoritarian State".

2024 International Workshop in Aurangabad (India)

The Policy Workshop held in Aurangabad (India) on 10 December 2024 adopted the theme *From Ideas to Impact: Exploring Public Policy Processes*. Jointly organized by RC48, the Water Policy Center and Maharashtra National Law University Aurangabad, this event, presented in hybrid

format, drew scholars, policymakers and practitioners. Designed as an interactive platform, it facilitated critical dialogue and exchange among emerging and established public policy actors, thereby strengthening theoretical and applied perspectives on policymaking in contemporary contexts. There were five general sessions and five plenary sessions, with five international paper presenters and five national paper presenters taking part. Four of the resource persons were foreign nationals and four were from India.

2025 IPSA World Congress

RC48 left its mark on IPSA's 28th World Congress in Seoul. The committee convened four panels on inclusive governance and democratic resilience, welcomed five new board members during a spirited business meeting, and strengthened global networks committed to resisting autocratization in polarized societies. The new members reflect IPSA's culture of diversity. They are Dr. David Mello (South Africa), Dr. Arunoday Bajpai (India), Ms. Margarita Barer (Israel), Dr. Caixia Wang (China) and Ms. Veronica Ludek (Poland).

International Monthly Lecture Series

An impactful, inclusive academic program titled [International Monthly Lecture Series \(IMLS\)](#) was initiated in 2025 to promote research and discussion and, more importantly, encourage broad-based participation across all membership categories. The IMLS Team of Saraswathi Unni, A. Ranjithkumar, Kinga Feenstra and Shane Mohammed, organized eight sessions during the first edition, covering the 2025-2026 period.

RC50 THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE

Following on its active and productive participation in the 2025 IPSA World Congress in Seoul, [RC50 The Politics of Language](#) is set to explore new challenges and opportunities with a new elected board and a full slate of upcoming research activities in 2026-2027.

RC50 focuses its research activities on bringing an interdisciplinary dialogue to bear on the study of language politics and policies. The committee is particularly interested in expanding theoretical and methodological diversity in its field of expertise, and in exploring the academic, practical and professional issues that such an expansion would raise. RC50 members consider the wealth of intellectual approaches to be a key element in robust understandings of why and how language-related political mechanisms, dynamics and processes evolve globally, regionally, locally and on a micro scale.

As a scientific and intellectual community, RC50 shares a joint commitment to mutual learning and to better understanding the deep ontological, epistemological, pragmatic and ethical diversity underlying its work. The Committee's aim is to discover and develop valuable connections between a multitude of perspectives and to cultivate creativity and synergy within these joint initiatives.

Most recently, RC50 has co-organized two scientific/research events.

1. Sixth REAL Symposium on Language Economics and Policy

Organized by Potsdam University in cooperation with [REAL \(Research group "Economics, Policy Analysis, and Language"\)](#), RC50, Ulster University and Andr ssy University Budapest, the [6th REAL Symposium on Language Economics and Policy](#) was held in Potsdam (Germany) on 4-5 June 2026. The meeting was devoted to various aspects of language economics and policy. Contributors discussed a diverse body of theoretical and empirical research scholarship, while papers considered practical implications for

language policy. This highly interdisciplinary event featured cutting-edge research in economics, political science, sociology, sociolinguistics, law and other related fields.

2. IPSA Research Committees Colloquium: Minorities Under Siege? Plural Societies Facing Plural Challenges

Hosted by EURAC's Institute for Minority Rights and the Centre for Autonomy Experience, the [2026 IPSA Research Committees Colloquium](#) was held in Bolzano (Italy) from 23-26 June 2026, under the theme *Minorities Under Siege? Plural Societies Facing Plural Challenges*. This event was organized by IPSA RC14 Politics and Ethnicity, in collaboration with eight other RCs. RC50 hosted two dedicated sessions at the Colloquium: (1) "Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Politics of Language"; and (2) "Linguistic Minority Rights: Challenges of Pluralism" (co-organized with RC26 Human Rights).

2026-2027 Webinars Series

In the autumn/winter of 2026-2027, RC50 will host a series of webinars aimed at showcasing different approaches to the study of political language and language policies, each with its distinct value and merit. The webinar series is interested in the following topics:

- The main historical and intellectual origins of these approaches;
- The main possibilities and limitations (e.g. theoretical, conceptual, methodological, practical, professional, institutional, pedagogical);
- Connections between various scientific traditions involving the study of language politics and policies;
- Challenges to the continued development of theoretical and methodological reflections in our field of expertise;
- Civic impact of research-informed policy advisory and public advocacy systems.

RC54 LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Inauguration

The newly created RC54 marked the official launch of its activities with an online seminar addressing the political crisis unleashed in Venezuela following the US intervention in early 2026. The seminar entitled “Venezuela: Transition to an Uncertain Democracy” was held on 30 January. Panelists examined the immediate political fallout, the humanitarian situation, and the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the crisis. The seminar is available on the [RC54 webpage](#).

Activities

RC54 members co-organized a special track to assess the state of democracy in the region for the upcoming [International Political Science Congress of AMECIP](#) (Mexican Association of Political Science), to be held in Aguascalientes (Mexico) on 22-25 September 2026. The main goal of the track is to share comparative experiences as part of an effort to generate a global agenda for achieving successful transitions and strengthening democratic practices. The track will feature both theoretical contributions and empirical case studies.

Call for papers

In collaboration with *Anuario Latinoamericano – Ciencias Políticas y Relaciones Internacionales* published by Maria



Curie-Skłodowska University (Poland), RC54 invites contributions for a dossier entitled “Latin America: Successes, Failures, and Crises of Democracy.”

The dossier commemorates the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule* (O'Donnell, Schmitter, and Whitehead, 1986), while critically examining democracy's precarious balance between successes and failures in Latin American and Caribbean states. Critical contributions that engage with the legacy of the “Transitions” framework while pushing beyond it are welcome. As democracies falter from Central and Eastern Europe to Southeast Asia and Africa, what can other regions learn from Latin America's successes, failures and enduring crises?

Information on editorial requirements can be found on the [journal's website](#).

RC55 GLOBAL PEACEFUL CHANGE



Join IPSA's New RC

RC55 Global Peaceful Change is a newly established IPSA Research Committee. Co-sponsored by the Global Research Network on Peaceful Change ([GRENPEC](#)), RC55 will primarily investigate the transformation of global and regional orders, with a focus on the conditions for “peaceful change.” In a period of major transition in international affairs, RC55 explores how global and regional orders evolve through non-coercive means, including diplomatic negotiations, institutional reforms and shifts in normative frameworks. The concept of peaceful change will serve as a core analytical perspective for the Research Committee.

RC55 welcomes new members at any time. IPSA has issued a call for papers for the 2027 World Congress in Rome. Please consider joining the RC by proposing research papers and ideas. For further information, please contact Prof. Kai He (K.He@griffith.edu.au) or Prof. T.V. Paul (t.paul@mcgill.ca). RC55 hopes to see you at the upcoming 2027 IPSA World Congress in Rome or at RC55-sponsored research activities in the future.

RC55 Sponsored Research Activities in 2026

- On 20 March 2026, RC55 Co-Chair, Prof. T.V. Paul, presented a research workshop entitled *The Future of Security Communities* at McGill University in Canada. The workshop examined the concept of security communities in theory and practice, the challenges they face, and their future prospects. It also considered how existing security communities might be protected and expanded across different regions. About 30 scholars from around the world took part in the workshop, co-sponsored by GRENPEC, the Florence School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute, and McGill University.
- On 18 September 2026, RC55 Co-Chairs, Profs. T.V. Paul and Kai He, will host an online research workshop entitled *Is Great Power Coexistence Possible? Avoiding War in the 21st Century*. The workshop will explore the theoretical foundations, historical episodes and policy implications of great power coexistence by addressing the following questions: What mechanisms have facilitated peaceful relations among great powers in the past? What structural or ideational shifts precipitate their breakdown? How might lessons from history inform efforts to manage strategic rivalry in the twenty-first century? Some 20 scholars from around the world will participate in the workshop, co-sponsored by GRENPEC.

Please visit the [GRENPEC](#) website and the [RC55 page](#) on the IPSA website for complete details.

IPSA AWARDS

2026-2027

The Call for IPSA Awards is now open! Most awards will be presented at the

2027 IPSA WORLD CONGRESS IN ROME

FROM 24-28 JULY 2027

For more information: ipsa.org/resources/ipsa-awards



THE KARL DEUTSCH AWARD

The award honors a prominent scholar engaged in the cross-disciplinary research Karl Deutsch mastered, with a particular focus on recognizing outstanding scholarship in global politics. To receive the monetary prize, the award recipient must attend the 2027 IPSA World Congress and give the Karl Deutsch lecture.

Prize: \$1,000 USD, plus economy airfare and Congress registration

Nomination deadline: 1 November 2026

PRIZE OF THE FOUNDATION MATTEI DOGAN AWARDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The prize is awarded to a scholar of high international reputation. It recognizes their contribution to the advancement of political science, with a particular focus on outstanding scholarship in the comparative studies of political elites. To receive the monetary prize, the award recipient must give a lecture at the 2027 IPSA World Congress (in person or virtually).

Prize: \$3,000 USD, plus travel expenses up to \$2,000 USD and Congress registration

Nomination deadline: 1 November 2026

KIM DAE-JUNG AWARD

The Kim Dae-jung Award was established in 2025 to honor the legacy of Kim Dae-jung, the 15th President of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), who served from 1998 to 2003, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 2000. Sponsored by the Kim Dae-Jung Foundation, this award celebrates the themes of global peace, democracy and human rights. The award recipient is expected to attend the IPSA World Congress and participate in the Kim Dae-Jung Award roundtable to receive the monetary prize.

Prize: \$5,000 USD

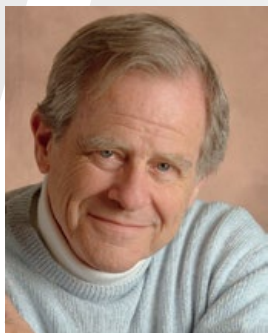
Nomination deadline: 1 November 2026

APSA-IPSA THEODORE J. LOWI FIRST BOOK AWARD

The award recognizes a first-time author in political science who exemplifies qualities of broad ambition, high originality, and intellectual daring, and shows promise of having a substantive impact on the overall discipline, regardless of method, specific focus of inquiry, or approach to subject. To be eligible for this award cycle, the book must have been published in the previous year (i.e. books for the 2027 award must have been published in 2026). It must be the nominee's first published single-authored book.

Prize: \$750 USD

Nomination deadline: December 2026 (exact date to be announced)





THE IPSA GUILLERMO O'DONNELL AWARD FOR LATIN AMERICAN SCHOLARS

Established in 2023 and launched at the 2023 IPSA World Congress in Buenos Aires, the award is given in honor of Guillermo O'Donnell, the distinguished Argentine political scientist. It recognizes a Latin American scholar based in the region whose work advances pioneering and innovative research in political science. To receive the monetary prize, the award recipient must attend the 2027 IPSA World Congress and deliver a lecture.

Prize: \$3,000 USD

Application deadline: 1 March 2027



MARGARET A. VOGT AWARD FOR GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOLARS

Originally established as the Global South Award in 2009, this award recognizes exceptional academic contributions from the Global South, and honors scholars whose work focuses on the countries, regions, and themes relevant to the Global South. In 2025, it was renamed the IPSA Margaret A. Vogt Award for Global South Scholars, in honor of the late distinguished African scholar and leading voice in international peace and security. It also acknowledges a scholar's cumulative body of work, emphasizing sustained contributions to the field. The recipient is invited to deliver a prize lecture at the 2027 IPSA World Congress.

Prize: \$1,000 USD

Application deadline: 1 March 2027



STEIN ROKKAN TRAVEL GRANT AWARD

The grant facilitates the attendance of graduate students at the IPSA World Congress by covering basic travel and accommodations costs. The awards, supported by the Stein Rokkan Fund, are made on the recommendation of the IPSA Committee on Organization, Procedures and Awards (COPA).

Prize: \$1,000 USD

Application deadline: 1 March 2027



WILMA RULE AWARD

The Wilma Rule Award on Gender and Politics was launched at the 2000 IPSA World Congress to encourage research in gender and politics. Named in tribute to Wilma Rule's work in the field, it will be awarded to the author of the best paper presented at the IPSA World Congress on this topic. Eligible papers should address issues relating to women's participation and representation in politics and society, especially the identification of entry barriers to decision-making arenas. Any scholar who has prepared an original written paper for the Congress and intends to present it in person may be nominated by the panel convenor or chair. To be nominated, the accepted full paper needs to be uploaded on the Congress website before 23 June 2027.

Prize: \$1,000 USD

Nomination deadline: 23 June 2027



FRANCESCO KJELLBERG AWARD

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