

# NEWSLETTER

CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

VOL. II - No 6

July 1973

COME TO THE MEETINGS

Joint Meeting

CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

and

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

Montréal - August 18-20

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INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

Montréal - August 19-25

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relating to the newsletter  
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POLITICAL SCIENCE PANELS AT THE 1974  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE  
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
27 FEBRUARY to 2 MARCH

The Coordinator of the Political Science panels for the 1974 C.A.A.S. Conference, Professor Timothy M. Shaw of Dalhousie University, would like to bring to the attention of the membership the possibility of participating in this interdisciplinary conference. Those interested in participating should write to T.M. Shaw, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University.

The following list of possible topics is neither exhaustive nor final; it is merely meant to be suggestive and to indicate the range of subfields, from individual political actions to Africa's global interests, in which we would like to solicit papers. Moreover, although we hope to cater to explicit disciplinary concerns, we also intend forming a group of multi-disciplinary panels, and this list clearly overlaps with a range of other disciplinary interests.

We would welcome an early indication of your intention to participate including proposed paper on panel topic. To help us organize the conference we would appreciate receiving short abstracts of papers. All papers should be prepared by December 31 to enable us to print a volume of papers for all conference participants.

A suggestive list of topics for Political Science panels

1. Political biography
2. Micro-politics  
Rural constituencies and district administration; urban politics; local responses to development; politics of language, ethnicity and religion; interest groups in Africa: patrons and clients.
3. The politics of inequality and regional disparities  
Public administration in Africa; decentralization and regional inequities; centre and periphery; urban-rural relations; class formation in Africa; the political economy of women in Africa; trade unions: underdogs or labour aristocracy?
4. Development policies and performancies  
Strategies for escape from dependence and underdevelopment; technical assistance and choice of development strategies; varieties of African Socialist ideologies and practices; the politics of planning and implementation; education: socialization or alienation?
5. The Politics of self-determination  
Liberation and counter-revolution in Africa; nation-building and socialist construction in the liberated areas; military roles in Africa: resistance, administration, aggrandisement; politics of occupation: colonial and minority administrations; one-party regimes: control, corruption, cooption.

6. Africa in the Global System

Case studies of the foreign policies of African states; the EEC and Africa: the new imperialism? multinational corporations in Africa; politics of intra-African trade: towards collective autonomy; African regional subsystems: integration and/or conflict; interstate inequalities in Africa; Francophonie and the Commonwealth: African dominance or dependence?

7. International Law and the environment

Development and pollution; Africa and international law: ecology, trade, the sea, sovereignty, guerrilla warfare; PanAfrican organizations and norms: OAU, ECA, ADB; international mechanisms of underdevelopment: aid, tariffs, technological control, freight and exchange rates.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

1972-1973 COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

In volume II, number 3 (January 1973) of the Newsletter we published material on the Social Science Research Council of Canada; its goals, structures and activities. In this issue we continue to inform the CPSA membership on the role of the SSRCC by describing the activities of the various committees during 1972-73.

This information was taken from a Council publication, "A Report on the 1972-1973 Activities of the Social Science Research Council of Canada," Except for the information on the Committee on International Scholarly Relations which was provided directly by the Committee.

Committee on Statistics

i) has continued negotiations with Statistics Canada on the development of a Data-Intensive Research Programme. The programme will, we expect, be introduced in 1974-75 and will provide support for data intensive research based largely on the data of the 1971 Census. A special advisory Committee will be established to adjudicate applications for research support which are received.

ii) has worked with Statistics Canada on the preparation of Anonymous Sample Tapes based on the 1971 Census, and has sought the development of an improved customized service for researchers seeking special data runs.

iii) organized in June 1972, a workshop on Social Indicators. The purpose of the meeting was to bring government and university researchers in this field in the closer contact.

iv) Cooperated with Statistics Canada in planning a Conference on the Role of Central Statistical Agency. The Conference is tentatively planned for the Spring of 1974 and will provide an opportunity for researchers to discuss the services and data which Statistics Canada should make available.

v) together with the Executive Committee and Professor M.C. Urquhart of Queen's University is making plans for the revision of the Historical Statistics of Canada (MacMillan, 1964) and for the preparation of entirely new volumes. Close cooperation with Statistics Canada in this activity is anticipated.

The results of this activity will be to provide researchers with a convenient and authoritative statistical reference.

Committee on Human Environment

i) has organized an interdisciplinary Symposium on the management of Public Lands. The Symposium will be held in Ottawa in October 1973 and will seek to review social sciences research in this subject, and through publication to consolidate these social science contributions.

ii) has established relations with native peoples associations in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. On the basis of this contact, the Committee is taking steps to provide advice and guidance to native peoples seeking the assistance of social science researchers.

iii) has been represented on the Canadian Coordinating Committee (CCC) for Man and Biosphere Programme. The object of the participation has been to ensure a greater orientation of the Programme towards the social sciences. Though progress is slow due to the nature of the CCC (only a very few social scientists) changes in the Programme are being effected.

iv) has participated in, and reviewed the Man and Resources Programme of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers. The nature of the Programme and its organization has not encouraged the Committee to pursue these interests.

Policy and Finance Committee

i) has prepared and published a response to volume II of the Report of the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy (Lamontagne Report). The response called for increased support for basic research in the social sciences and endorsed the recommendation for the establishment of a separate foundation for funding research in the humanities and social sciences. The implication of this recommendation is that the responsibility for funding the humanities and social sciences be removed from the responsibilities of the Canada Council. Other recommendations are noted in the published document.

ii) has prepared and published a brief to the AUCC Commission on Rationalization of University Research. The Brief called for improved information on social science research, the establishment of a foundation for the humanities and social sciences, improved funding for research centres and institutes, and increased support for research libraries.

iii) has frequently considered the membership and participation of SSRCC in SCITEC (The Association of the Scientific Engineering and Technological Communities of Canada). It has recommended the continued membership of SSRCC in SCITEC believing that it can serve the interests of the social sciences by bringing representatives of these disciplines to contact with scientists from other disciplines, through the SCITEC Committees. As well, SCITEC is considering the development of a secretariat service (House of Science and Technology - HOST) for member associations.

iv) has prepared a commentary on the Bonneau-Corry Report. A major item concerns the recommendation of the AUCC Commissioners that seven-nine "centres of excellence" in the social sciences be designated and developed. The Committee has not endorsed this view preferring to emphasize the importance of the researcher rather than the institution. Consequently, the Committee has urged the development of specific "expert-groups" at the national or regional level. The Committee has not thought in terms of buildings and libraries but has believed that the personnel in research activities must be the primary concern.

Many of the points urged in the SSRCC Brief to the Commissioners were not incorporated in their Report.

Committee Projects  
Committee on Research Policy

These Committees have little progress to report. The Committee on Projects is considering the development of a major assessment of the Social Science disciplines; and improving information distribution about SSRCC and the social sciences more generally.

The Committee on Research Policy has recently been established and will become a resource of information on the strategies and policies for social science research support in Canada.

Committee on Aid to Publication

This Committee has charge of the one funding programme of the Council. 236 manuscripts were submitted in 1972-73, 46 have been approved for subventions, and 44 previously approved have been published. Some 56 manuscripts were on hand at end of the year.

The purpose of the committee is to receive and oversee the assessment of manuscripts of advanced scholarship in the social sciences. Through the assessment procedure, the Committee assists the development of the quality of research. The results of the Committee's work are concretely realized in the publication of scholarly works.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY RELATIONS

The Committee on International Scholarly Relations is a Standing Committee of the Social Science Research Council of Canada.

It is concerned with the conduct of research by Canadian scholars abroad, the international concerns and activities of Canadian social scientists and other matters related to international scholarly relations, and acts as a vehicle for liaison between the social science community and relevant private and public organizations.

Functions of the Committee

In seeking to further international scholarly relations while taking into account the Canadian context, the Committee performs, amongst other functions, the following:

- a) liaison and coordination: the Committee serves as a spokesman of the social science community with private and public bodies in Canada and abroad (and to that end, maintains appropriate liaison with other Committees of the Council);
- b) information: the Committee evaluates and assesses major reports and programmes which affect international scholarly relations with a view to informing the social science community of their implications as well as making known social science considerations and needs to the appropriate bodies;

