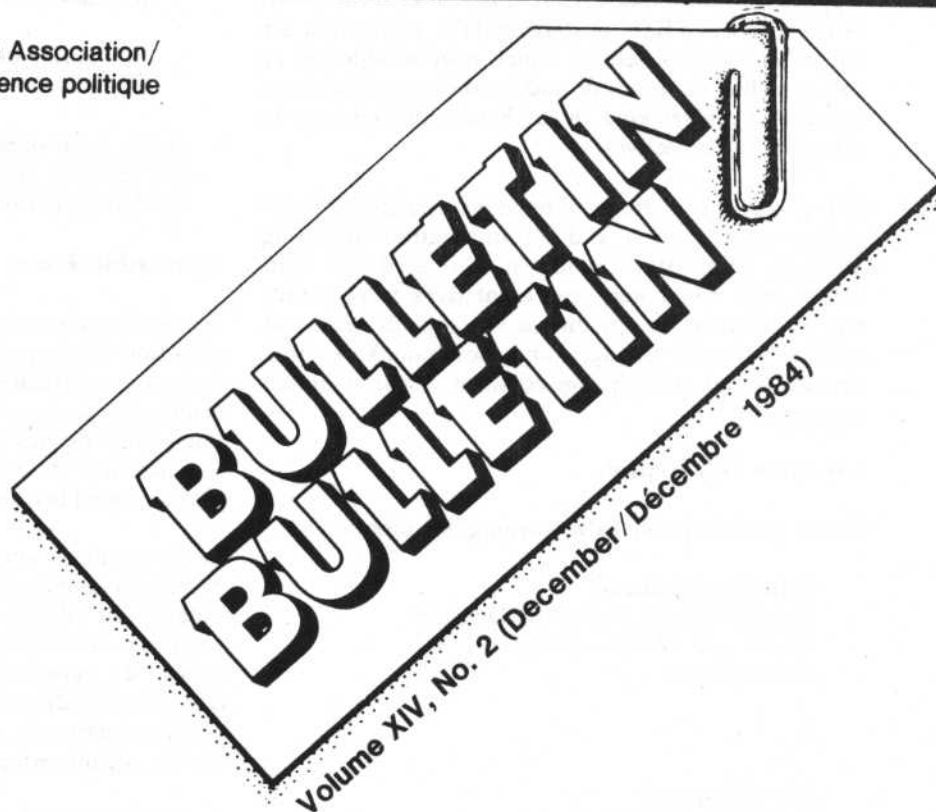


The Canadian Political Science Association/  
Association canadienne de Science politique



## CONTENTS/CONTENU

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . . . .	1
AT THE CPSA . . . . .	2
JOBBS . . . . .	5
AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS . . . . .	7
ODDS AND ENDS . . . . .	8

PUBLISHERS/EDITEURS: The Canadian Political Science Association/Association canadienne de Science politique and/et La Société québécoise de Science politique: Co-Editor for the CPSA/ACSP: Allan Tupper (Alberta) (address: Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4).

Information/renseignements: CPSA/ACSP, 1-613-231-4026

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## GOVERNMENT - SSHRCC

Since June, the CPSA Executive has been working to promote our interests with the SSHRCC and the new government in Ottawa. We have made representations to the SSHRCC about such matters as (1) SSHRCC support for "new technology" in research communication (with the constant threat that more traditional form of communications -- books and journals -- will receive relatively less support), (2) concern about the possible priority shift for Leave Fellowships, and (3) the role of peer review in various SSHRCC programmes. David Elkins is preparing a brief which will be incorporated into the Chandler-McRoberts report, "A Proposal for the Advancement of Social Science Research in Canada." This report was submitted to SSHRCC last autumn, but will be discussed again at the Board of Directors meeting November 24-25; we hope to emerge with a clear position on the question of peer review.

Even though the SSHRCC received extra funds from the previous government in Ottawa -- thanks in large part to the successful lobbying of the SSF -- we are by no means funded adequately (there has been virtually no increase in SSHRCC funds, measured in constant dollars, since the early 1970s). With the new government committed to deficit reduction, the PCs support for research has not yet been demonstrated. I have written to Walter McLean, Secretary of State under whose jurisdiction the SSHRCC resides, urging him to approve and support in Cabinet the Council's five-year plan.

I have also corresponded with Marcel Masse, to urge that his department (Communications) continue to grant a subsidy to Canada Post for third class mail. Without the subsidy, CJPS would face drastically higher mailing costs, with a probable increase in our fees, and hence reduced numbers of subscribers, particularly abroad.

## OTHER ISSUES

Among many other matters, our Executive and Board of Directors will be discussing the broad issue of CPSA membership. Since our financial future is cloudy at best, we must seek to augment our revenues from non-governmental sources. Martha Fletcher has agreed to chair a committee to examine and make recommendations on recruiting more members. We are particularly concerned about creating more contacts with community college instructors and political scientists working in government and the private domains. Our association can provide numerous services for them. In the meantime, it would be useful if all non-members in Canadian universities were reminded that, whatever their intellectual interests, the CPSA serves them in many ways, not the least of which is to struggle to maintain research funds and programs such as Leave Fellowships. Graduate students similarly benefit from our activities.

Another issue we will be discussing is access to information. We have received several complaints about access to archival materials and to party conventions

and the like. The purpose of our work is to maximize availability of research materials -- including interviews -- for those engaged in scientific inquiry.

We will also discuss some proposals regarding the institutional arrangements of Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de politique.

## APPOINTMENTS

We can congratulate André Blais (Montreal), who has been named Associate Editor of the above journal. I am also pleased to mention that the Board of Directors has elected Pierre Fournier (UQAM) as its representative on the CPSA Executive Committee. Other appointments include Ken McRoberts (joining Caroline Andrew and Sharon Sutherland) as members of the CPSA/SqSp liaison committee, Caroline Andrew to the PIP/stages parlementaires policy committee, Marshall Conley (Acadia), and Ed Black (Queen's) and Caroline Andrew (Ottawa) to the SSF General Assembly. Caroline is also our representative on the SSF Board.

The CPSA and SqSp have nominated André Blais (Montreal), Donald Blake (UBC), Francois-Pierre Gingras (Ottawa), Jane Jenson (Carleton), Larry Leduc (Windsor) and John Meisel (Queen's) to serve on the SSHRCC's committee on national election studies. These persons constitute, really, a panel, from which the SSHRCC can draw for expertise.

Your Association's delegates to the IPSA Council will be André Donneur, Caroline Andrew, and myself. Alternates are Edouard Cloutier, Fred Engelmann, and Louise Ouesnel. We will be working to have André elected to the Executive Committee of IPSA. There has been no Canadian on the Executive for several years.

## WORKSHOP

Following the very successful workshop on Africa held last February, we have learned more about organizing and funding such ventures. Len Cohen (Simon Fraser) has taken the initiative to organize a workshop with our Yugoslav colleagues. The workshop will probably focus on foreign policy questions. The enterprise is in the formative stage and will proceed subject to external funding. The CPSA will be official sponsor, but will not commit funds or administrative services for the proposal. More information will be available in the next Bulletin.

Kal Holsti  
University of British Columbia

# AT THE CPSA

## REPORT ON ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL - DON MUNTON

One of the few obligations of those who receive support from the CPSA and SSHRCC to participate in the Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis is to provide a report on their experience. What follows may serve as that report; it is, however, not an obligation met but something of a labour of joy if not love. My experience was so thoroughly positive and stimulating I want to recommend it to any of my colleagues who have the slightest quantitative research stirrings. The summer quite simply changed, perhaps not my intellectual life, but certainly my approach to research. Part of the impact, I think, stems from Essex's cosmopolitan intellectual milieu. That statement may be greeted with at least mild scepticism by loyal graduates and fans of the LSE or Oxford. But the Essex Summer School does attract faculty and graduate students from all over Europe, especially Scandinavia, Germany and Italy. Most are exceptionally committed. (There are, incidentally, almost no Americans.) The result is a fascinating and probably unique intellectual milieu in which one is as likely to be part of a debate about German electoral trends, Belgian consumer psychology or Swedish suicide patterns as part of a discussion on the assumptions and weaknesses of ARIMA models. Some mention of the Essex physical environment might be useful, if only because a prior awareness of both its positive and negative aspects may help future participants to get the most out of the social and intellectual side.

The best that can be said about Essex architecturally is that the semi-rural old-estate setting is nice. Essex does not boast the sort of buildings which warm the heart or do good to the soul. It might not unfairly be described as mid-60s utilitarian, or perhaps, an attempt at Arthur Erikson's Simon Fraser University by an unimaginative and over-extended plumber. The design was apparently "inspired" by an Italian mountain town. Its various levels of 'squares', surrounded by classrooms and offices, meant to be the equivalents of piazzas, were intended to offer the same socializing opportunities. The idea might well have succeeded, and certainly would have worked better, were it not for the fact that the British climate differs in certain respects from that of Italy. For example, it rains. A lot. And it's cold. Days of 50°F and showers made it less than easy to play and enjoy the role of piazza aficionado.

There is, on the other hand, a decided advantage to the architecture if practicalities rather than inspiration are one's top priority. Its greatest advantage for the serious summer school scholar is the compact lay-out. Everything is close to everything else. And, in contrast to most Italian piazzas, there are no cars. The classrooms are a few (and safe) steps from the dormitories. The computer centre and the Essex Data Archive are just across one of the 'squares' from the classrooms. (So close, in fact, at least one '84 participant found out he could use the traditional 10 minute coffee break in the middle of morning classes to hit the terminal, crank out a causal model or log-linear regression, and get back to class before the smokers had finished.) The library and cafeterias are but one 'level' and a square away from the

classroom - computer centre area. The squash courts are a short walk away. The summer school office -- the nerve centre -- is just a few steps down the hall from the classrooms. Well, perhaps, down half a hall, through some doors, up a one-quarter flight of stairs, around a corner, through another set of doors and then a step or two. Confusing perhaps. But very close. And the pub, of course, is just across from the computer centre on 'square 2'.

All of this proximity is obviously very efficient. The contrast hits when one returns to UBC and pays a small fortune for the privilege of parking in a mud field only a mile and seven-eighths from the closest building, or to U of T and risks life and limb crossing Queens Park Circle at rush hour, or to Carleton and wanders for hours through miles of tunnels. Piazzas, with rain or without sunshine, begin to look very practical.

The weather, however, is not the only deterrent to doing as the Romans did, here at Essex. For all the piazzas there is a conspicuous lack of places to sit. The university food services seem determined to keep you -- protected or imprisoned -- indoors no matter how pleasant it may be outdoors. None of the cafeterias, not even the ones located just off the squares, have as much as a single table or chair outside. And the only one from which you could actually see outside was closed down mid-summer. The sole establishment which does have a few outside tables is a very limited menu, hamburger, pitta sandwich and cream puff -- but non-alcoholic -- takeout. And it seems to have expanded outside by necessity. Moreover, lacking espresso, its 'coffee' bears but passing resemblance to the brews of the average Italian trattoria. They both come in cups.

Lest it seem I am casting aspersions on more than the architecture, I must quickly add that the food itself was surprisingly good for an institutional food service, though better at lunch than dinner. I cannot say much about the hot meals because I am a salad-and-bread lunch person. I am at least, fairly certain none of my hot lunch eating colleagues became terminal cases from their habits. But the salads were a considerable and delightful surprise. As one conditioned to expect the runny eggs, uncooked bacon, and cold toast breakfasts, pork pie and chip lunches, and meat, mashed and overcooked veggie dinners common to low-budget England, I did not expect to see many salads. For a quite reasonable price, however, Essex offered a made-to-order salad plate, put together, with or without extras like cold meat, smoked mackerel, or cold chicken. Even more surprisingly, the campus pub offered, in addition to beers, peanuts and 'crisps', a surprisingly decent pizza and other hot snack items.

Essex Summer School participants often went off campus for dinner. Colchester is not a gastronomic capital of any sort, but does have a few interesting restaurants including a very good Greek establishment and a French-style bistro. The town, of course has numerous pubs. Most of them understandably are very neighbourhood-oriented. Some patrons seemed mildly curious about foreign invaders from Essex but no international incidents arose, at least none I heard about. Colchester also has a few welcome culinary oddities like a small Middle Eastern stand up-or-takeout run by an ex-patriate Egyptian. The food was excellent, especially the humous and desserts. The local populace however apparently found entirely perplexing the absence of fish and chips-to-go on the menu. This one thus may or may not do enough business to survive until Summer School '85.

On diversions from the rather quiet life of a small city like Colchester much could probably be written. Suffice it to say, London is only an hour away by British Rail. Cultural pursuits, especially London theatre, are not, despite a dismal pound, as cheap as they were in the mid-1970s. But they are still reasonable and offer the finest quality. If

one's tastes go in other directions there is, of course, London nightlife of other qualities.

The dormitories at Essex, it might be said, are like university dormitories anywhere. In truth, though, they are worse. Much worse. On the positive side, as noted above, they are close by. It would be broadening the description to say 'conveniently located' and perhaps overdoing to say 'convenient'. But they are very close to the classes, summer school office, computer centre, and library. What they are physically are very stark, black towers resembling, as one occupant suggested, something out of Clockwork Orange. From anyone who stayed in the dorms, a group comprising most summer school participants (but not myself), one heard seldom but discouraging words. Virtually unanimously, they expressed envy of those living off-campus.

To some degree, this fulsome expression of the general will ought to be, if not regarded with a grain of salt, then at least seen in a comparative perspective. There is a benefit not shared by off-campus accommodations. In part because of the sheer numbers of summer schoolers in residence and in part, perhaps, because of the alienating architecture, there was considerable social activity. Indeed, the locus of most summer school social activities was the dorms. Many 'floors' collaborated, cooperative style, in making group dinners. Many dorm dinners turned into late night discussions or parties. From time to time, some assignments may even have been done. In contrast, those living off-campus were, necessarily, a considerable distance away and thus less likely to get involved, or to be available for involvement, in the on-going informal social activity centred in the dormitories.

An element of Essex dormitory life that ought not be merely passed over involves, ah, shall we say, the 'other groups' one is likely to find using the campus during the summer. Most numerous, and most noisy, are considerable numbers of continental European high-school students taking English language classes. They sometimes seem everywhere and even invade the pub to play billiards and the video games. Summer programme participants who by bad luck ended up in a dormitory room one floor below those ghetto blaster equipped hordes did not find it easy to work or, often, even sleep in their rooms.

A second and even more bizarre group of co-inhabitants were apparently enrolled in canine obedience classes. Complete with owners. There were reports from the dorms that some of the more fanatical would-be trainers, or perhaps, some of those with more dim-witted dogs, were heard out on the grassy knolls beside the residences at late hours barking orders to their pride and joys to jump over one last hurdle, guided in the pitch dark, of course, by their masters' 'torches'. During one particularly wet day the whole class moved down to occupy one of the squares, all armed with a little plastic baggy for emergencies. In short, for those serious scholars bored with the intricacies of SPSS-X, there was no shortage of diversions.

The summer school staff did a wonderful job of organizing activities. Trips to pubs, to Cambridge, to 'the sea' as well as an opening reception, discos, and farewell parties were all laid on. The highlight, perhaps, was a Sunday afternoon high tea out on the lawn, with sandwiches, cakes, scones, jam and even clotted cream.

The most pleasant surprise of the entire summer for me was the extraordinary degree of support and help provided by the summer school and its staff. The summer

school has its own large office which doubles as a specialized library, drop-in centre and meeting place. Carol Welge, the programme secretary, who is on full time during the summer, is helpful, friendly, and efficient. The atmosphere is all that more remarkable when one considers the attitude of many university administrative staff towards students or faculty. It is even more remarkable when one realizes that Carol and her assistants are registrars, counsellors, librarians, guides, and advisors to well over a hundred foreigners with varying command of the English language, all of whom know they have a limited time to settle into a strange environment and to begin to function intellectually -- and many of whom are taking these classes for credit. Enough cannot be said about the contribution made by this excellent staff.

It may seem by this point that the educational aspects of the Essex programme were matters of secondary priority. On the contrary, the classes and lectures were first-rate, and, for me, an unparalleled experience. Together they were the best or among the best statistics and methodology classes I have ever had. One in particular was on par with the best class of any sort I have experienced. The lecturers were extremely knowledgeable and interested in their subjects. Although taking more than one class per two-week session is not officially encouraged, I, like most participants, registered for one and also attended a second each session. The pace and the reading and computer assignments loads make such doubling-up a full-time preoccupation. I was also working with some data from the Essex Data Archive as a personal project, applying some of the analytical techniques covered in classes. During the last week of my second session, the work load was such that I had to skip a few classes and miss assignments of the one which I decided was the 'extra'.

The classes I attended were a two session sequence on contingency tables, a 'hands-on' tutorial in the use of microcomputers, and the course on time series analysis. Contingency Tables I and Contingency Tables II, though innocuously titled, were simply superb. For anyone doing survey research who has wondered whether there isn't something in life after chi square other than the megaton firepower of interval statistics, these courses are wonderful. The first, taught for seven years now by Jim Davis of Harvard, deals with an approach that Davis calls 'd systems', essentially a simple but sophisticated analysis of proportions in percentage tables that allows building and testing causal models using dichotomous variables. David is not only a superb teacher but also a stand-up comic. For example:

'Good Morning! You haven't missed a thing ... I've been stalling.'

'If you got a 'Q' of more than .25 you have not made a discovery. You have made a mistake.'

'Why? Well, because that is the way the computer wants it, ... And our main goal in life is to please the computer.'

'That may not be just ... But then just ... not a topic 'n Contingency Tables I.'

'You thought you were getting a course on proportions and differences but we are tossing in r, r-square, etc., and you don't have to pay any extra. Isn't that nice of the Summer School?'

Contingency Tables II, taught for eight years by Graham Upton of Essex, deals with log-linear models, an elegant and more mathematical approach that is more widely

