

## Draft June 13, 2010 (Letter of invitation and Call for Proposals)

Dear Colleagues,

### 82nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association

January 6-8, 2011  
New Orleans, Louisiana

The Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (RCLS) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) has pleasure in appending a call for proposals to the 82<sup>nd</sup> SPSA annual meeting, being held at New Orleans, Louisiana on January 6-8, 2011. We very much hope that you will be able to join us. The deadline is July 20, 2010.

With best wishes,

RCLS

#### Call for Proposals

- Event:** At 82<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association  
<http://www.spsa.net/>
- Dates:** January 6-8, 2011,
- Place:** New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
- Deadline:** **Submissions are now open through July 20th, 2010**
- What to Submit:** *a) Paper Proposal:* Providing an outline or summary of the paper will work best. However, given the fast approaching deadline, brief proposals will be accepted as well, such as proposals that indicate the title of the paper, research question, and methods.  
*b) Panel Proposals:* Submit a panel.  
*c) Offer your service as a discussant or a chair for the panel.* Please include a list your research interests with the proposal.
- How to submit:** e-mail your proposal to: [ikhmelko@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ikhmelko@georgiasouthern.edu)

**Theme:** Olson's publication "*New Wine in Old Institutions*" prodded the discipline to consider the process of legislative institution building in developing democracies. These parliaments "*are not only intrinsically interesting and important in themselves, but also provide a new opportunity to examine comparatively the process of institutionalization.*"

We ask the scholars of legislatures to again consider the issue of legislative institution building. We are especially interested in papers that allow for practical implications of research. Theorists have posited that legislative institutionalization has been an important part of the process of democratic reforms. Yet it is clear today that legislatures in some regions have struggled to institutionalize, while the others have demonstrated remarkable successes.

The general theme that we offer for our panels is "Legislative Institution Building." With this theme the RCLS encourages panels and papers on a range of topics. We encourage studies of electoral process including but not limited to the studies of electoral rules, parties, gender, and ethnic politics. Further, studies of legislative process and legislative oversight as well as roles of parliamentary party groups, committees, and leadership in these processes are of great interest. Further, studies of legislative behavior including influences from the executive branch (studies of legislative-executive relations); constituencies (studies of constituency relations), and Constitutional Courts (studies of Constitutional Courts) can offer opportunities for interesting discussions. Last, but certainly not least we encourage studies of Parliamentary Benchmarks and Performance Indicators

Our hope is first, to stimulate careful thought about how best to conceptualize the process of legislative institutionalization. Second, we invite fresh empirical descriptions of legislative institutionalization. Such work might be historical and/or developmental tracing the origins of modern legislative institutional arrangements or may ask about the effects of a particular institutional design. We invite cross-country, cross-regional analyses as well as country specific case studies and studies of institutional changes over time.

In sum, we encourage participants to rethink the theories of legislative institution building and their own empirical work and urge theorists to reevaluate their models in light of empirical examples of legislative institutionalization in different countries of the world. We are inviting participants to discuss practical implications of their research for the developmental community and practitioners of legislative institution building.

If you have any questions, contact:  
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