



INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Research Committees Review

<p>1. Name of research committee Science and Politics: LEGISLATIVE SPECIALISTS (RCLS)</p>
<p>2. Reference number: RC08</p>
<p>3. Date of initial recognition within IPSA: 1972</p>
<p>4. Officers (full name/address/telephone/fax/email)</p> <p>Chair/President:</p> <p>From the beginning there was a tradition not to have a chair and vice-chair, but two co-chairs, one for America, the other one for other region, as usual Europe. There was practical reason concerning cooperation with regional political science associations. In the nineties it was also the constitution of democratic parliamentarism in European post-communist countries.</p> <p>American Co-Chair: Frederick (Rick) Stapenhurst, Co-Chair (for the first four year term) frederick.stapenhurst@mcgill.ca Management Department McGill University, Montréal, and Laval University, Québec Canada</p> <p>European Co-Chair: Zdenka Mansfeldová, Co-Chair (for the second term, both terms were for two years) zdenka.mansfeldova@soc.cas.cz Department of Sociology of Politics Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Jilska 1, 110 00 Prague Czech Republic Phone: +420-210 310 563</p>

Secretary/board members (please specify):

Program Chair:

Hilmar Rommetvedt, (second term, four years; the first term was two years according to rules valid for Madrid Congress in 2012)

hilmar.rommetvedt@iris.no

International Research Institute of Stavanger (IRIS)

Stavanger, Norway

Appointed, not elected positions (according to earlier documents):

Treasurer:

The former Treasurer Prof. Ned Schneier did this job in excellent way and the RCLS has expressed its appreciation and words of thanks. However, the time has changed. Fee was collected, but later there are more members who did not pay as those who did. The reason might be with high probability the high fee for bank transfer. So RC08 decided on the business meeting in Madrid (2012) to quit the practice of the fees because the bank would take most of it. Due to this fact RC08 meeting did not appointed the Treasurer for the next term.

Director for Research: Dr. Irina Khmelko, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (for practical purposes in order to represent the RC08 in organizing activities in the US, especially activities that bring scholars and practitioners together). It helps also to increase the visibility of the RC08 in the US. University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, USA; irina-khmelko@utc.edu

Webmaster: Erik Fritzsche, Dresden University of Technology (Technische Universität Dresden), erik@fritzsche-net.de.

5. Date of last election:

Officers were elected on the RC08 business meeting held during the IPSA Congress in Montreal 2014.

6. Membership for three years costs

Last time the fee was collected for the 2009-2012 period (\$25.00). In the discussion it was agreed that no RC08 membership fees will be collected as the bank transfer and account fees would consume most of the moneys received. According to the former treasurer there are still small amount of money left and it might be spent for a reason decided by the RC08 members.

7. Number of members on mailing list:

The current RCLS mailing list contains about 350 of members/friends

8. Newsletter (title/frequency/circulation)

RC08 does not issue Newsletter

9. Subject (we would welcome a brief state - about 100 words - describing the work of this group in terms of its main focus within political science)

RCLS is devoted to the research of discovery and application on representative assemblies around the world and contributes to furthering the field of Comparative Legislative Studies of Political Science. Its purpose is to develop and disseminate scholarly work on parliaments and legislatures, their relations to other political institutions, their functions in the political system, and the activities of their members both within the institution and outside. The RCLS develops and maintains a network of scholars and practitioners and it values interdisciplinary research and collaboration among scholars in different disciplines. The aim of RCLS is to bring scholars and practitioners of legislatures together to contribute to the formulation and verification of general theories about legislative systems, processes, and behavior and develop ideas about practical applications of these theory to the work of legislatures around the world.

10 Activities during the last six years (conferences, meetings, workshops, roundtables - including place, date, title and themes)

2010-2016

RCLS in UK, 2015

Panel of the Research Committee of Legislative

Specialists at 12th Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians. Oxfordshire, UK, July 25-26, 2015.

Khmelko and Stapenhurst organized a panel with experts at the Workshop. Workshop has a reputation for bringing together top scholars and prominent practitioners, including legislators and their staff.

RCLS at the World Bank, Washingto, DC, USA, 2015

Roundtable Discussion on Contributions of Legislative Research to Building a Community of Practice on Legislatures. The World Bank. 1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433. April 6, 2015.

RCLS's at the SPSA annual meeting in New Orleans, USA, 2013

Conference Organizer. Conference Within Conference. *Research Committee for Legislative Specialists (RCLS) Conference* within a Conference. In conjunction with the SPSA 2013 Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL. January 2-5, 2013.

RCLS's at the SPSA annual meeting in New Orleans, USA, 2012

Conference Organizer. Conference Within Conference. *Research Committee for Legislative Specialists (RCLS) Conference* within a Conference. In conjunction with the SPSA 2012 Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. January 12-14, 2012.

RCLS's at the SPSA annual meeting in New Orleans, USA, 2011

RCLS met at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA on January 6-8, 2011. The RCLS organized three panels, one independent and two in collaboration with the World Bank Institute group.

RCLS Panel on the PSA Conference in Edinburgh 2010

From March 29th to April 1st 2010 in Edinburgh/UK PSA Conference "Sixty Years of Political Studies: Achievements and Futures" was held. RCLS had a Panel organized by its Co-Chair Peverill Squire headlined "The Past, Present, and Future of Bicameralism".

RCLS Panel on the IPSA Conference in Luxemburg 2010

From March 18th to March 20th 2010 IPSA Conference "Is there a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective" was held in Luxemburg: the RCLS co-chaired a panel on "European, National, and Regional Parliaments and EU Law-Making". The panel concentrated on the principles of democratic representation in European model of governance. Co-chairs: Werner Patzelt (Dresden University of Technology, Germany) and Christopher Lord (ARENA, University of Oslo).

RCLS Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Atlanta, USA, 2010

RCLS met at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Atlanta, GA, from January 7 to January 9 2010. Irina Khmelko from Georgia Southern University at Statesboro organized two panels on behalf of RCLS: "Legislative Institution Building in Developing Democracies" and "Parliamentary Audit and Scrutiny of Ex-poste Government Spending".

RC08 Sections at IPSA Congresses:

2016 XXIV. IPSA World Congress in Poznan

9 panels including three joint panels with RC02, RC19 and RC34.

Panels:

- [J-RC02/08.02] Parliamentary Activities, Career Tracks and Accountability
- [RC08.06] Parliament's Fiscal Scrutiny Function
- [RC08.04] How Can We Fix Representative Democracy?
- [RC08.02] European Legislatures/Developments
- [RC08.03] Executive-Legislative Relations
- [RC08.10] Shaving a Square Peg for a Round Hole: Implementing Fixed Donor Plans in Changing Legislatures
- [RC08.07] Parliamentary Capabilities for a World of Inequality
- [J-RC08/34.08] The Representation of Complex Diversity in Upper Chambers
- [J-RC08/19.07] Gender-Focused Parliamentary Bodies – Criteria for Success and Failure

2014 XXIII. IPSA World Congress in Montreal

11 panels including two joint panels with RC03 and RC19.

Panels:

- Capacity Building and Professional Development by Parliamentarians
- Contemporary Approaches to Parliamentary Strengthening
- Gender, Diversity and Power in Legislative Committees: Comparative Perspectives (Joint panel RC19/RC08)
- Legislative Assistance: Triage to Sustainability
- Legislative studies I
- Legislative studies II
- Legislators in a Changing Digital World
- Parliamentary Control and Contemporary Governance – Challenges, Reactions and Perspectives
- Parliaments and Coalition Governments
- Sub-National Parliaments
- The Politics of Representation (Joint panel RC08/RC03)

2012 XXII. IPSA World Congress in Madrid

Panels:

- Legislative Agenda Setting and Opposition Parties
- The costs and benefits of organized interest representation in the parliamentary process
- The Nature and effects of Legislative Opposition Parties
- The role of representative assemblies in autocratic and semi-democratic systems

Publications (books, special journals, discussion papers, conference proceedings, newsletters, including title(s), author(s), editor(s), date, place, publisher)

Publications on Legislative Issues by RCLS Members are announced on the RCLS website (www.rcls-ipsa.org). There are following information available:

Edinger, Michael/Jahr, Stefan (2015), Political Careers in Europe Career Patterns in Multi-Level Systems, Nomos.

Semenova, Elena/Edinger, Michael/Best, Heinrich (2013), Parliamentary Elites in Central and Eastern Europe: Recruitment and Representation, Routledge.

Crum, Ben/Fossum, John Erik (eds.)(2013), Practices of Inter-Parliamentary Coordination in International Politics: The European Union and Beyond, ECPR Press.

Langhelle, Oluf (ed.)(2013), International Trade Negotiations and Domestic Politics: The Intermestic Politics of Trade Liberalization, Routledge.

Patzelt, Werner J. (ed.)(2012): Parlamente und ihre Evolution: Forschungskontext und Fallstudien (Parliaments and their Evolution: Research Context and Case Studies). Nomos.

Owens, John E./ Pelizzo, Riccardo (2012): The "War on Terror" and the Growth of Executive Power? - A Comparative Analysis. New York and London: Routledge.

David M. Olson and Gabriella Ilonszki, eds. (2012), Post-Communist Parliaments: Change and Stability in the Second Decade, Routledge.

The RCLS members are asked and encouraged to provide information and copy of the front page and short resume to our webmasters to increase the visibility of RCLS and their own work.

Other activities (including honours, awards, grants)

RCLS develops further partnerships with practitioners (Irina Khmelko). It already has a well-developed partnership with the World Bank Institute Group and the partnership with USAID is currently being developed.

Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (RCLS) of the IPSA invites paper proposals for the RCLS's panels at the section organized by RCLS at the 9th Annual Dupont Summit 2016 on Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy held in Washington DC on December 2, 2016.

Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (RCLS) is working on organizing a section at the annual meeting of the Policy Studies Organization (the Dupont Summit, <http://www.ipsonet.org/conferences/the-dupont-summit>) in Washington DC on December 2, 2016. This section will include a regular panel and an expert table and will address specific

questions related to the roles of legislatures in the process of democratic transition and consolidation. Specifically, policy makers and practitioners have been assisting parliaments around the world in building their institutional capacity. The assumption has been and remains that a democracy in any country requires a strong parliament. This section will discuss roles of legislatures in the process of democratic consolidation. What roles can legislatures play in post authoritarian societies for democracies to succeed? There are multiple countries around the world that took on a path of democratic reforms. Some have succeed with moving from democratic transition to democratic consolidation. However, there are many other countries that have reverted back to the authoritarian rule or have been struggling with democratic reforms. What makes some succeed where the others fail? What roles do legislatures play in these successes and failures? Under what conditions do legislatures contribute to the process of democratic consolidation in post authoritarian societies?

Cooperation with other RCs

Cooperation with RC02, RC03, RC17, RC19 and RC34 – organization of common panels at the IPSA Congresses.

GENPARLNET - A Cooperation of RC08 And RC19_ A new research network, GENPARLNET, has been established, linking researchers working on gender-focused parliamentary institutions. At the ECPR Politics And Gender Conference in Barcelona in March there was an unprecedented number of papers on such parliamentary bodies and the opportunity was taken to establish a research network linking researchers in all continents. As a result of this cooperation RC08 and RC19 organize a collaborative panel at the Montreal IPSA Congress 19-24, July 2014.

Cooperation with practitioners

There was intensive preparation for a conference organized together with the Turkish parliament in autumn 2013 in Ankara on The Changing Roles of Parliamentary Committees Revisited. Unfortunately, the conference did not take place as the communication from the Turkish partner ceased. Both sides still show interest in common event.

In North America, RCLS members collaborated with both USAID and the World Bank to strengthen the research-practitioner interface, especially as the two latter organizations redesigned their support programs for better governance and stronger legislatures. Such collaboration was deemed useful by all, with USAID using an evidence-based approach – with RCLS member input – in the development of its new strategy.

A further meeting of researchers and practitioners is planned for December, 2016, and RCLS intends to organize another panel at the 2017 Wroxtton conference. Papers are welcomed!

11. Inter-RC and PSA cooperation and interaction in the last six years. Please indicate other RCs with which you have mounted joint workshops or conferences, or

publications or other activities. Please do the same for any national PSAs you have worked with.

RCLS panels were held in conjunction with the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), in Orlando, in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 (organized by Irina Khmelko, University Of Tennessee, Chattanooga, USA); the cooperation with the Southern Political Science Association is very fruitful and mutually beneficial.

RCLS panel on parliamentary opposition in Europe was organized on the 7th ECPR General Conference In Bordeaux, September 2013 (organized by Gabriella Ilonszki, Corvinus University Budapest, Hungary).

RCLS conference within a conference was held in association with the Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG) 2013 conference, In Perth, Australia (organised By Ken Coghill, Monash University, Australia).

12. Do you have a website? If yes, when was the last update? www.rcls-ipsa.org

RC08 web site is updated regularly with RC08 information on panels, conferences, publications and other activities. The last update was on June, 13th 2016.

13. Further activities planned during the next three to six years


Discussion of RCLS future plans:

- Cooperation with other RCs will continue;
- Practitioners and scholars to look at legislative studies and see the needs of practitioners - RCLS has the expertise from CEE transition to offer;

USAID – there is 18 months project looking at establishing rigorous empirical and practical cooperation in legislative strengthening - looking at what do donors want from parliaments in terms of development outcome, accountability, etc. Outcome should be - practical product what works in legislative strengthening A Handbook on legislative strengthening and second, volume of essays halfway between practitioners and academics.

This Handbook is designed to assist USAID Missions in developing strategies to help legislatures function more effectively and to perform their functions more democratically and representatively. It explains the importance of legislatures in a democracy, describes structural and other factors that influence legislative behavior, and enumerates problems legislatures commonly face. It then presents an assessment framework that is designed to help USAID field officers pinpoint the weaknesses and understand the capabilities of their host-country legislature.

- Strengthen cooperation of RC08 with national political science associations;
- Continue and strengthen the cooperation with ECPR (Standing Group of Parliaments, SG east Central European Politics);
- Proposal for some of the next meetings held in Prague in 2017 or 2018 (depends on timing of Czech parliamentary elections), theme parliamentary opposition including practitioners from the Parliamentary Institute;

Name Rick Staphenurst Zdenka Mansfeldova Hilmar Rommetvedt Irina Khmelko	Position American Co-Chair European Co-Chair Program Chair Director for research
Signed 	Date 13 July, 2016

Submission outline - please supplement with additional pages where necessary