

## **Description of RCLS' Panels at the IPSA World Congress 2009 in Santiago de Chile**

### **Panel 1: The Comparative Analysis of Representative Assemblies: Sub-national to Transnational Levels**

Representative Assemblies appear in an incredible number of different forms at all levels of government. This variety offers interesting possibilities for comparison and generalization. This panel is intended to provide an opportunity for a wide range of comparisons across systems as well as levels for developing useful generalizations and theories of parliaments and legislatures. Paper proposals are encouraged that will innovate in cross institutional analysis of any type.

### **Panel 2: Organizational Evolution: Capacity Building in Parliaments and Legislatures**

Parliaments and legislatures have changed organizationally across time, frequently with the goal of building capacity for independent policy making. This panel concentrates on how capacity building has been conceptualized and measured as well as what capacity building studies of various legislatures have concluded, especially in different legislative settings.

### **Panel 3: Methodological Frontiers in Analyzing Parliaments, Legislatures and National Assemblies**

Research is always trying to innovate and find new approaches as well as novel methods for studying parliaments and legislatures. This panel provides a forum for the latest innovations in research methodology to be shared with colleagues. Innovation and the application of new approaches is especially encouraged.

#### **Panel 4: Parliaments and Legislatures ‘Under Siege’**

Although there has been impressive adoption of representative assemblies across as well as within different political systems world-wide, the introduction of collective-democratic decision making bodies has not always been well received and entirely successful in the long run. In many instances, such assemblies have been often met with skepticism and hostility and have had to adapt. This panel will be devoted to research considering the negative and unanticipated consequences encountered by parliaments, legislatures and sub-national representative bodies as well as the responses made and their successes.

*document compiled by Erik Fritzsche (Dresden)*