

# International Political Science

## 1985 World Congress of the International Political Science Association

Francesco Kjellberg, program chairperson for the 13th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, has solicited suggestions from national associations for topics and sections for the July 1985 IPSA meeting. Although the formal deadline for submitting proposals within the framework described below is May 15, 1983, program committee member Philip Converse, has said that suggestions received slightly after that date may be considered. APSA members are welcome to submit proposals to the program chairperson or to the appropriate subtheme consultant.

The formal call for proposals from Kjellberg is reprinted below. The IPSA congress will be held in Paris.

### Call for Proposals

1. This memorandum outlines the basic organizational structure and the main theme of the program for the 13th IPSA World Congress in Paris, July 1985. It is the result of considerations and final approval by the program committee and the IPSA executive committee in January 1983. A list of the members of the program committee is attached.

The national associations are invited to submit suggestions for topics/sections with names of conveners, within the structure outlined in this memorandum. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 15, 1983. It will not be possible to include all of them, but they will widen the range of proposals from which a final choice will be made.

2. As in previous congresses, the program will be subdivided into three parts: I. Main theme; II. Sessions of the research committees and study groups; and III. Special meetings.

It is generally felt that the congresses

have become too fragmented and the sessions too numerous. One might argue that the greater the number of sessions, the more people can be actively involved as papergivers or discussants, and the broader the range of interests that can be accommodated. However, there are also some definite drawbacks in having a very large number of sessions. Apart from the organizational problems, which may be serious enough, there is a danger that the congress will get a flavor of intellectual potpourri, and that several sessions will end up with only a few participants.

Accordingly, the program committee has decided to limit the total number of sessions to approximately 170. For the main theme, the content of which is outlined under point 3 below, it is suggested that 24 topics/sections be included, each of 2-3 sessions, totalling about 60 sessions. For the research committees and study groups the number of sessions is given, since they are entitled to two sessions and one session each respectively. With regard to special meetings, these will be limited to 30-35 sessions, partly because of the increasing importance of the research committees and study groups and partly in order to reserve the largest share of the sessions to the main theme of the Congress.

Adding to this a few plenary sessions and a limited number of sessions on French political science and French politics, we arrive at the following basic format of the program:

Main themes	60 sessions
(4 subthemes X 6 sections X 2½ sessions average)	
Research Committees	42 sessions
Study Groups	20 sessions
Special Meetings	30-35 sessions
(normally 1 session, but with possible exceptions)	
Subtheme sessions	4 sessions

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French politics 5-6 sessions  
Interdisciplinary sessions 2 sessions  
Total: (approximately) 170 sessions

3. The goal of the program committee is to balance attempts to provide intellectual focus with efforts to accommodate special interests and to maximize active participation. Moving in this direction, it has been decided to develop one main theme that is broad enough to be subdivided into a set of subthemes. This will give the program both a common focus and a fairly rich range of topics, accommodating the interests of the various subfields in political science.

The recent IPSA Congresses have taken a broad view of the discipline, concentrating on the peripheral areas around the core structures of government. IPSA both leads and reflects developments in political science. It seems appropriate at this stage of its development, to make government and the institutions of public control, the central focus of the congress. This is in tune with a major trend in our discipline, namely the return to institutional aspects and to the substance of governmental activity, integrating the lessons from the behavioral approach and our interdisciplinary forays. On the basis of these considerations, the following main theme has been adopted for the Paris Congress: *The Changing State and Its Interaction with National and International Society*.

The aim will be to discuss various conceptions, empirical findings and analytical approaches to changing patterns of government and to dynamics of public policy. As far as possible this should be cast in a comparative mold, confronting the various experiences in different countries. Emphasis should also be put on the historical dimension, trying to illuminate the presence of the past in the present, both in connection with institutions and policies.

Under this general heading four subthemes have been selected:

- I. State and Government in Recent Political Theory.
- II. The Changing Structure of the Governmental Apparatus.
- III. Comparative Public Policy and Governmental Actions.

## IV. Global Problems: Challenges to the State.

The four subthemes reflect, by and large, the conventional division into subfields in political science. An effort will be made, however, to combine various specializations within each subtheme. For instance, issues of international politics, apart from being dealt with under subtheme IV, will in part be included under the other subthemes. Likewise, the program committee will try to integrate into this framework issues of political development, avoiding the definition of the Third World as a separate category.

Each subtheme will include on average six topic areas, i.e., sections comprising two to three sessions. Each section will be the responsibility of a convener, who must adhere to specified guidelines and deadlines. They must cooperate closely with the program chairperson and the IPSA secretariat.

The national associations (IPSA's collective members) are invited to make suggestions regarding both topics for the sections and conveners. It will be appreciated that not all the suggestions can possibly be included in the final program. Both the limitation on the number of sessions and the need to attain a reasonable regional balance make this unfeasible. But through this invitation, the program committee wishes to widen the range of proposals from which the final choice will be made.

To assist the program chairperson in working out a more detailed program along these lines, the program committee has appointed the following colleagues to act as consultants for the four subthemes:

Prof. Bhikhu K. Parekh	subtheme I
Prof. Jerzy J. Wiatr	subtheme II
Prof. Jean-Louis Quermonne	subtheme III
Prof. Kal J. Holsti	subtheme IV

The suggestions can be sent either to the program chairperson or to the consultant of the subtheme under which the section is to be considered.

4. As in previous congresses, the special meetings (i.e., the third part of the program) will serve a variety of purposes. To some extent they will provide an op-

portunity to expose intellectual interests and particular concerns that cannot be accommodated within the framework of the main theme of the congress.

In addition, the special meetings should provide a forum for the trying out of new approaches and act as arenas for attempts at expanding the research frontier in all fields.

To achieve their coordination with the rest of the program, they will be under the purview of the program chairperson. A general announcement about the special meetings will be made in the IPSA newsletter, *Participation*, with deadline for proposals in 1984, making it possible to consider a broadest possible range of interests.

**International Political Science Association  
Program Committee, 1982-1985**

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Kal J. Holsti (Consultant Subtheme IV), Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver,

B.C., V6T 1W5 Canada (before June 15, 1983: please mail to the program chairperson).

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