

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:
OUR FIRST YEAR AND PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Peter Lange
President
Duke University

Russell Dalton
Secretary/Treasurer
Florida State University/
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John Freeman
1990 APSA Coordinator
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Just about a year ago a number of you were gracious enough to sign a petition requesting that the **APSA** form an Organized Section in Comparative Politics. A year later this initiative has become a major success and appears even more propitious than it did originally. I write to you as introduction to our **first**, informal newsletter to let you know about our progress and plans and to solicit your input for the Section's next phase of development.

The Section has taken off with a bang! As of May, 1990 we have eight hundred forty one members. This is unprecedented growth for organized sections. It is a sign of the strong interest among APSA members in greater recognition for comparative politics. At the end of this newsletter you will be given the opportunity to provide the Executive Committee with suggestions about the kinds of activities you would like the Section to undertake and the ways you would like it to spend your dues. We expect to implement these over the course of the coming year, after discussion at the Annual Business Meeting which will take place at the San Francisco Meetings of APSA at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 31. Please attend if you can. And, please be sure to renew your section membership when renewing your APSA membership.

During the past year the principle activities of the Section

have revolved around panel selections for the 1990 annual meeting in San Francisco and getting our administrative structure in order. Thanks to John Freeman of the University of Minnesota, the Program Coordinator, an exceptionally good set of panels was assembled.

Beginning in early fall, John collected proposals for panels and papers. The Section's call for papers stressed the effort to have panels which spanned areas, subdisciplinary fields and methodological boundaries. We also hoped to provide greater opportunities for papers which were rooted in the study of a particular country or area and had broader comparative **significance**. The goal was to help lessen the fragmentation of the comparative fields and to prompt **discussion** of approaches **in** the field and their merits and limitations. These are goals which are likely to be relatively permanent features of our **program**, allowing us to differentiate our product somewhat from that of the more narrowly focused program committee sections.

A listing of the panels John put together is included with this newsletter. I think you will see that he has done an excellent job of meeting both the goals set for the program and the larger purposes of the Section which were set out in the founding documents.

For 1991, Robert Bates of Duke University has been asked by the Executive Committee to act as Program Coordinator and has accepted. The call for papers which Bob has prepared is included with this newsletter. I hope that you will start planning proposals for panels and papers to send to Bob in the **fall**. In doing so, you should be mindful of the fact that the overlap of subject matters of different program sections causes some confusion. Those interested in program participation are, therefore, encouraged to make multiple submissions. Please be sure, however, to inform the panel organizers of where else you are submitting your **proposal**.

It was our belief from the outset that one of the most important services which the **Organized Section could** provide for the members and the profession was to raise the visibility of comparative politics within the annual program. The regular inclusion of a substantial number of panels from our Section - which is based in part on the number of members - assures greater representation for comparative politics in the program of **the** APSA Annual Meeting than has been the case in the past. We have, therefore, made a very good **start** at accomplishing this goal. We would welcome any comments you may have as you look over the program for this year and next year's call for papers.

The other major task which we had to undertake in order to launch the Section was to get our administrative and budgetary matters in order. As you may recall, the By-laws passed at the **Annual Business Meeting in 1989** provided for a two-step selection of an Executive Committee. The first phase was accomplished at

the business meeting last year. The officers chosen then are listed at the **front of this** newsletter. We are about to name a Nominating Committee for the second phase in the **creation of an** Executive Committee. The officers to be selected this year include a Vice President/President Elect who will serve for one year and then become President; and two **At-large** Executive Committee members who will **serve** two year terms. As stipulated in the By-laws, I would hereby like to solicit nominations for these positions from the membership. Please send nominations for any of these positions directly to me and I will pass them on to the Nominating Committee once formed.

Due to the enthusiastic response of **APSA** members, the Organized Section has been able to accumulate a reserve fund which we can now begin to apply to Section activities. Russell Dalton has established the appropriate accounts, and we are ready now to undertake a set of initiatives. In this regard, we would welcome suggestions from the members about what kinds of specific activities they would like to see the Organized Section Sponsor. Among the things we have talked about are: a formal newsletter which would appear twice a year and which would include not only news of the Organized Section but possibly also short book notes and/or short articles on our field; prizes for articles appearing in **journals**, papers delivered in our panels, or books appearing in the field; special activities at the APSA Annual Meeting, perhaps focusing on the teaching of comparative politics; partial sponsorship of a conference intended to produce a volume which would provide a critical

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overview of the field. Obviously **we cannot** do **all** of these activities nor do they exhaust the possibilities. On behalf of the **Executive** Committee, therefore, I want to urge you to make suggestions. In order to facilitate your doing so, we have attached a brief questionnaire which we would ask you to return to me.

In closing, let me say something about the broader **significance** I envision for the Section. World events in recent years, and the last year most dramatically, have underlined the potential of scholarship which is rooted in knowledge of particular countries and areas but which is analytically broad and comparative. Developments in Europe - the transformations in Eastern Europe and the progress toward EEC integration - are only the most immediate signs of the erosion of traditional national and area studies boundaries as appropriate limits on the selection of units of analysis for the study of many issues.

These events have also reaffirmed the value of research which explores comparative themes across not only countries in the same area but across areas **as well**. Issues like **democratization**, the political sources of and obstacles to changes in economic regimes, the domestic politics of international economic openness, or the impact of media on processes of political change have taken on renewed significance and the scope of comparative cases has been markedly broadened. Changes in the world are impinging on a number of the traditional research proclivities which have characterized, and **fragmented**, comparative politics as a sub-discipline.

At the same time, it is clear that we run considerable risks in conducting cross-national and cross-area research on these and similar themes if we are insufficiently sensitive to particular **histories**, cultures and institutional legacies. In fact, there are clear signs that both culture and institutions are returning to prominence in comparative analysis, albeit embedded in theoretical frameworks somewhat different than in the past. We certainly do not want to repeat false starts and steps in trying to develop cross-national and cross-area frameworks and generalizations. But we also want to avoid the cumulation of national or area **specific** findings which do not lend themselves to **cross-national** and cross-area cumulative increases in more general understanding

These observations are, of course, entirely personal. They are nonetheless intended to provide the background for a research, teaching and training agenda which I would hope the Organized Section in Comparative Politics would promote through its activities. The special characteristics of our section are that its themes and **cases are** not area-, or **functionally-**, or methodologically-defined and that we hope to combine self-conscious attention to theory and method with comparative substance.

In this **context**, the agenda I foresee would include attention to themes which address the explanation of **political processes** and behaviors which are relevant to a broad range of **cases** in different areas of the world and which have significant political and normative content. It would also seek to promote the open comparison, and sometimes even

confrontation, of different theoretical and methodological approaches to such themes and to comparative study more generally. These approaches might well bridge different disciplines as well as coming entirely from our own and would include both quantitative and qualitative and small-n and **large-n** analyses. Some of the recent work on comparative methodology has sought once again to raise questions about the relative merits of these different approaches and of context-specific knowledge as contrasted to abstract generalization of relationships between variables. These are debates with which our work as an Organized Section should be engaged. Finally, it would incorporate not only a focus on research and contributions at the frontiers of knowledge but also consider how we might best train our graduate students to conduct such research and how to incorporate the fruits of this research into our undergraduate teaching

This is an ambitious agenda and certainly one about which there can be disagreement. Nonetheless, I would hope that it is broad enough to accommodate the interests of the large membership of the Organized Section while also providing definition to our efforts. In order for us to succeed as a Section, however, we will continue to want and need the full support of the members. In that spirit, and as a closing let me remind you of the things we have asked of you in this letter:

1. Continue to support the Section with your dues when you pay your annual APSA membership;

2. Attend the Business Meeting in San Francisco if you can: Friday, August 31 at 5:30 P.M.;

3. Send me any nominations you have for Vice President/President-Elect and two members of the Executive Committee;

4. Send back the questionnaire regarding the next phase of Section activities;

5. Start thinking about papers or panels you would like to propose for the 1992 meetings in light of the "Call" prepared by Robert Bates.

Thanks.
Peter Lange

CALL FOR PAPERS:

COMPARATIVE POLITICS SECTION: APSA 1991, WASHINGTON, D.C.

While **affirming** the diversity typical in the field of comparative politics, proposals for panels in the following areas would be especially welcomed:

Panels that focus on a single problem area from a variety of methodological perspectives or in a variety of geographical areas. Examples might include panels on the politics of religion or ethnicity, or the politics of economic policy reform.

Panels that explore the **boundaries** between comparative politics and other sub-fields in the discipline: security studies and international political economy, for example.

Panels that explore the relevance of methodologies and approaches

that have been developed for the study of advanced industrial **nations** to the study of developing societies. **Consociationalism**, political business cycles, pluralism, rational choice theory -- how useful are these when applied to the developing areas?

A panel that re-assesses the **significance** of earlier approaches to comparative politics. In retrospect, how well do modernization theory, dependency theory, or the study of political culture stand up? Were they perhaps abandoned too soon?

A panel that focuses on the contribution of area studies to political science.

Please send your paper and panel proposals to:

Robert H. Bates
Political Science
Duke University
Durham, NC 27706

1990 APSA PANELS: ORGANIZING THE WORLD

For the 1990 annual meetings of the **APSA**, our section was allocated 12.5 panels to encompass the comparative politics field. By the week of **Thanksgiving**, I had received and solicited roughly an equivalent number of proposals, that is, there were already enough proposals to fill our **alloted** number of panels. During the last week before the submission deadline, another 8 panel proposals and about **50** paper proposals arrived. Most of these proposals were quite interesting and worthwhile, forcing us to make some very **difficult** choices. To this end, I consulted the

section executive committee for desiderata to employ in **constructing** the **section**. Among the criteria suggested by the committee were (in no particular order): representation by women and minority scholars and by faculty from smaller schools--especially liberal arts colleges, coverage of work on a wide range of geographical areas, incorporation of a variety of methodologies, inclusion of **non-American political** scientists, emphasis on papers and panels which were expressly comparative, and treatment of important intellectual developments like the renewed interest in the study of political culture and social movements.

At the same time, I consulted with other section heads about the possibilities for co-sponsoring panels **and**, in that way, creating panels and panel slots which might not **exist** if I worked solely **with the collection** of proposals I had received. (The Association counts a co-sponsored panel as one-half a panel.) These consultations proved quite fruitful in producing some high quality panels as **well** as helping **to resolve** the logistical **difficulties** created by the fact that some individuals had made multiple submissions without informing the section **organizers**.

In the **end**, several outstanding panels were created out of the proposals I received. And, most of these panels fulfill the selection desiderata. The **listing** of section panels and co-sponsored panels follows.

John Freeman
University of Minnesota

APSA Organized Section:

PANELS SPONSORED SOLELY BY COMPARATIVE POLITICS SECTION

PANEL: The Political Culture Approach: Theory and Practice

CHAIR: John D. **Martz**, Penn State University

PAPERS: "Weber, Political Culture, and Guatemalan Politics"

Marc Belanger, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

"Political Culture and Global Democratization"

Ronald Inglehart, University of Michigan

"Political Culture and Democratization: Some Evidence from Latin America"

Mitchell A. **Seligson**, University of Pittsburgh

"Comparing Rival Theories of Risk Perception"

Aaron Wildavsky, University of California, Berkeley

Karl Dake, University of California, Berkeley

DISC: David J. Myers, Pennsylvania State University

PANEL: Green Parties in Western Europe: Between Protest and Power

CHAIR: E. Gene Frankland, Ball State University

PAPERS: "Ideology and Entrenchment: Swedish Green Party Strategy 1988-1991"

Anthony Affigne, Brown University

"The Politics of One Generation? The German Green Party and its Limits to Growth"
Thomas **Poguntke**, University of Mannheim

The Recruitment of Green Party Members: The British Case"
Wolfgang **Ruedig**, University of Strathclyde
Mark Franklin, University of Strathclyde/University of Houston
Mario **Diani**, University of Strathclyde

"The Future and Success of Green Parties in Western Europe: A Framework for Analysis"
Ferdinand Mueller-Rommel, University of Lueneburg

DISC: Donald Schoonmaker, Wake Forest University

PANEL: Responding to New Challenges? Established Parties and Contemporary Issues in Industrialized Democracies

CHAIR: Robert Rohrschneider, University of Kentucky

PAPERS: "Social Democracy and Liberal Corporatism: The Contrasting Careers of Austrian and Swedish Social **Democracy**"
Herbert Kitschelt, Duke University

"New Social Movements and Established Political **Parties**: The Reaction to New Political Demands in West Germany and Britain"
Thomas Koelble, Miami University

"Political Gridlock and Political Responsiveness: Japanese Politics at a Crossroad"
Terry **MacDougall**, Boston University

"New Politics in Old Parties: Environmental Issues in Four West European Party Systems"
Robert Rohrschneider, University of Kentucky

DISC: **Scott C. Flanagan**, Florida State University

PANEL: Government Accountability and Performance in Democracies

CHAIR: Geoffrey Garrett, Stanford University

PAPERS: "Electoral Cycles, the Organization of the Economy and Economic Performance"
Michael Alvarez, Duke University
Geoffrey Garrett, Stanford University
Peter Lange, Duke University

"Democracy and Party Programs: Variations in the Program-Party Linkage"
Richard I. Hofferbert, SUNY Binghamton
Hans-Dieter **Klingemann**, Free University of Berlin

"Holding Governments Accountable: How Constitutional Arrangements and Party Systems Affect Clarity of Responsibility for Policy in Contemporary Democracies"

G. Bingham Powell, Jr. University of Rochester

DISC: Michael **Laver**, University College of **Gallway**

PANEL: Theories of Revolution

CHAIR: William Dixon, University of Arizona

PAPERS: "Class Exploitation, Economic Development, and Violent Rebellion: A **Cross-National Analysis of Marx's Theory**"

Terry **Boswell**, Emory University
William Dixon, University of Arizona

"The Rebel's Dilemma: Will Rational People Rebel?"
Mark Lichbach, University of Illinois at Chicago

DISC: Edward Mueller, University of Arizona
Bruce Moon, Lehigh University

PANEL: Democracy in the Third World: Lessons From the Caribbean

CHAIR: Carlene J. Edie, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

PAPERS: "**The Decline of Democracy and the Struggle for its Rebirth in Guyana: Lessons for the Caribbean**"
Festus Brotherson, Jr. Baldwin-Wallace College

"Democratic Processes and Middle Class Domination in the **Caribbean**"
Percy C. **Hintzen**, University of California, Berkeley

"The Basis of Regime Support: A Study of Political Attitudes and Behavior in Grenada, **1951-Present.**"
Pedro Noguera, University of California., Berkeley

"Economic Crises and Political Change: The Cases of Costa Rica and Jamaica"
Bruce Wilson, Washington University-St. Louis

DISC: Professor Jacqueline Braveboy-Wagner, CUNY
Professor Susan Jones, University of California, Santa CNZ

PANEL: Regime Change in Theoretical and Historical Perspective

CHAIR: Timothy Luke, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

PAPERS: "From 1789 to 1989: Overthrowing or Restructuring the 'Modern Prince' in Bureaucratic Centralist Regimes" Timothy Luke, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

"The Relocation of Authority in A Shrinking World: From **Tiananmen** Square in Beijing to the **Soccer** Stadium in Soweto via Wenceslas Square in Prague and Parliament Square in Budapest" James Rosenau, University of Southern California

"Societal Scale, Authority Patterns and Regime **Stability**" John D. **Robertson**, Texas A&M University
Robert **Harmel**, Texas A & M University

DISC: Julie Erfani, Arizona State University
Scott Corey, University of California, Berkeley

PANEL: Advances in Cross-national Research on Public Opinion and Voting Behavior

CHAIR: Michael Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa

PAPERS: "Europeans and the European Community: The Dynamics of Public Support for European **Integration**"
Russell J. Dalton, University of California, Irvine
Richard Eichenberg, Tufts University

"Does Liverpool Matter? Or, Local Economic Conditions and How Voters Perceive the State of the **Economy**"
Michael Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa
Glenn E. Mitchell, II University of Iowa

"A Changing Political Agenda? The Structure of Mass Political Attitudes in Britain, 1974-1987"
Donley T. **Studlar**, Oklahoma State University
Ian **McAllister**, University of New South Wales

DISC: Robert **Jackman**, University of California, Davis
Matthew Burbank, University of North Carolina

PANEL: Chinese Political Reform in Comparative Perspective

CHAIR: Daniel Kelliher, University of Minnesota

PAPERS: "The Chinese view of Soviet and Polish Reforms"
Kevin O'Brien, The Ohio State University

"Allocating Scarce Resources in China and Taiwan"
Tsung Chi, Michigan State University

"Manipulation of Symbols in the 1989 Chinese Student Demonstrations"
Richard L. Wilson, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga

APSA Organized Section:

"External **Models**' Influence on China's Political Reform"
John Quansheng Zhao, East-West Center

DISC: Daniel Kelliher, University of Minnesota

CO-SPONSORED PANELS

PANEL: Formal and Methodological Advances in Comparative Politics

CHAIR: James Alt, Harvard University

PAPERS: "Methodology in Comparative Politics"
James **Alt** and Gary King, Harvard University

"Political-Economic Cycles"
Alberto F. Alesina, Harvard University
Nouriel Roubini Yale University

"The Information-Economizing Organization of Parliaments"
Ronald Rogowski, University of California, Los Angeles

DISC: **TBA**

PANEL: Women's Participation in Democratic Transition: Eastern Europe and Latin America

CO-CHAIRS: Jane Jaquette, Occidental College and Sharon Wolchik, George Washington University

PAPERS: "The Gender Politics of the Brazilian Transition: Comparative Perspectives"
Sonia Alvarez, Merrill College

"Political Change and Women's Issues in Contemporary Eastern Europe"
Renata Siemienka, University of Warsaw

"Citizen Protest and Military Policy: The INF in Crisis in Western Europe, 1979-1989
Diarmuid Maguire, Swarthmore College

"Protest, Resistance, Revolution: Is There a Common Logic of Collective Action?"
Sidney Tarrow, Cornell University

DISC: Tom Rochon, Claremont Graduate School

BYLAWS

The **first organizational meeting** of the Comparative Politics Section was held at the 1989 **APSA meetings in Atlanta, which** followed a roundtable on comparative politics organized by the section.

At this business meeting a draft of the bylaws was discussed by the membership, and after several amendments the bylaws were approved as the organizational basis of the section. The officers of the

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section were **also** voted in at the meeting. Any section member can obtain a copy of the bylaws from Peter Lange, the section president.

Activities Questionnaire

Which of the following activities would you like to see the Organized Section in Comparative Politics undertake? Please indicate your degree of interest by using a 1 (low) to 5 (high) scale, marking in the designated space. At the bottom, please indicate any other initiatives in which you might be interested. Thanks.

Degree of Interest
(1 - 5)

Activity

Newsletter

_____ short book notes

_____ short articles in the field

_____ conference announcements

Prizes

_____ best article in a major journal

_____ best paper delivered at one of our panels

_____ best book in the field

_____ long-term distinctive contributions to the field

Partial Conference Sponsorship

Special Activities at **Annual** APSA Meeting

Specific Suggestions: _____

Suggestions for other activities

Return to:

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