

# Making International Collaboration Work: An Update from the French Politics Group of APSA

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With five years of experience under our collective belt, the French Politics Group (FPG) (a related group of the APSA) has moved into a new phase of network development and international collaboration across North America, Europe, and other continents. The goal of this article is to map out these networking efforts, to present the ingredients for our success, and, in so doing, provide some possible avenues of collaboration for other APSA members to consider in their own efforts to develop international work groups and networks.

## The Culmination of Five Years of Work: A Progress Report

Our group currently has 135 members from the U.S., the UK, Ireland, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. Half of our members are from the U.S., with many of these members also having worked at some point in their careers in French universities; many are EU citizens. Similarly, many of the non-American members have held appointments at some point in the U.S. Thus our membership is quite cosmopolitan. Our members span all of the stages of academic life, with well over half having received their Ph.D.s in the past 10 years. Members are not asked to pay any dues. The only prerequisite for membership is to have some level of interest in teaching or conducting research on France; non-country specialists are welcome, as are those who do more broad comparative research. The FPG maintains a web site (<http://www.wsu.edu/~frg/>), and we send out an electronic newsletter to members twice a year. This newsletter is jointly produced with the French Politics and Policy Group of the Political Studies Association in the UK, chaired by Robert Elgie of Dublin City University.

With the creation of the Frank L.

Wilson APSA Paper Award in 2004 and the revitalization of the George Lavau Dissertation Award, the group gave out two awards last year at the APSA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Jocelyn Evans (University of Salford, UK) and Robert Andersen (McMaster University, Canada) received the Wilson award for their paper, "Never Mind the Blocs: Mapping Ideological Space in France, 1988–2002." The committee for the award was chaired by Andrew Appleton (Washington State University), and the other members were William Saffran (University of Colorado, Boulder), and John Keeler (University of Washington). The 2006 Wilson Award committee was appointed at the APSA Annual Meeting and will consist of: Jocelyn Evans, Chair (University of Salford), Michael Bosia (St. Michael's College), and Cyndy Skach (Harvard University).

The Lavau Award was given to Cyndy Skach at Harvard University for her dissertation titled "Duverger's Error: Constitutional Democracy Revisited." The award was first given in 1993 and is presented every three years. Since 1998, it covers dissertations that are uniquely on French politics or have a significant component on French politics. This year's committee considered nine dissertations defended from 1999–2004. Committee members included the chair, Jonah Levy (University of Berkeley), and members Karen Bird (McMaster University) and Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot (Institut d'Etudes Politiques- Bordeaux). The next committee will be constituted in 2008 to consider dissertations awarded from 2005–2007. The award for the prize was given at the business meeting with a brief presentation of the dissertation given by the chair of the committee. The FPG provides a modest level of prize money for each award, and the group will be looking to raise new funds to cover awards in the future.

The APSA Annual Meeting continues to be a major focus for the group's collaboration. In 2005, we organized three panels (one co-sponsored with European Politics Section), and co-sponsored a reception with the journal *French Politics* and the French Politics and Policy Group of the UK's Political Studies Association. Most panelists were from non-American institutions, with a strong showing from France and the UK. The group also organized a pre-conference short course on teaching French politics. It was attended by eight people and provided an opportunity for teachers to have rich discussions on a wider variety of ways to bring French politics in the classroom. The materials for the short course are available on our web site.

While important, the APSA Annual Meeting is not the only venue for the group. FPG members also present research at Political Studies Association meetings through the work of the UK-based association's French Politics and Policy Group. In France, a new generation of French political scientists who are active in the group have established unprecedented links between the FPG-APSA and political scientists in France. The FPG is involved in discussions about the creation of a new methodology group inside the Association Française de Science Politique (AFSP), and will be helping to organize an inaugural meeting in France. We also hope to sponsor a workshop at the APSA Annual Meeting on the same theme, bringing together both French and American specialists in quantitative analysis.

The new president of the AFSP, Nona Mayer, has committed to several joint activities in the upcoming year, including a panel and a short course on the "state of the discipline in French political science" at the 2006 APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The AFSP will also join in

sponsoring a reception. The state of the French discipline panel and short course are based on an initial analysis of French political science published in *French Politics* (Billordo 2005a; 2005b) and is slated to produce a symposium issue to submit for review to *Perspectives on Politics*. The FPG also will work with the French Political Science Association and APSA to obtain funding for a systematic survey of French political scientists to compliment these initial studies.

The Institute of Political Studies in Paris (*Sciences Po-Paris*) will also be involved with this Franco-American collaboration under its vice president, Gerard Grunberg. Two other French political science institutions are deeply involved in thickening Franco-American disciplinary links, the Center for the Study of French Political Life (CEVIPOF) and the Institute of Political Studies in Bordeaux (Sciences Po-Bordeaux). These extensive collaborations with the AFSP, Science Po-Paris, CEVIPOF, and Sciences Po-Bordeaux are unfolding against the backdrop of APSA's efforts to nurture and develop its links with political science associations outside of the U.S.

This cooperation with our French and British partners means that we will be participating in the following activities in 2006:

- organize four panels, a short course, and a reception at the APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia—panels will include: a program panel on the riots in France; a graduate student panel on gender in France; a panel be on the French perspective on international affairs; and a roundtable panel on the state of the discipline in France.
- submit a symposium on French Political Science for review to *Perspectives on Politics*;
- conduct a systematic study of political science in France;
- co-organize a workshop on methodology in France in conjunction with the creation of a new methodology section of the French Political Science Association;
- send group members to present research on PSA-UK panels on French politics next spring;
- organize and award the group's best APSA Paper Award;
- raise additional funds from its members for prize money.

## The Ingredients for Success: Ten Lessons from the FPG

The following represent the top 10 major lessons that can be drawn from the French Politics group's continuing success and ever-increasing institutionalization. As is evident, success depends not merely on resources or leadership, but a complex combination of factors that implies a real level of engagement among a critical mass of members in many different countries.

1. **APSA Support**—The support of APSA's leadership has been crucial in terms of providing flexibility on panel construction, travel funds for foreign scholars, through established grant programs, and encouraging international partnerships.
2. **Moderate Levels of Resources for Travel and Awards**—The group does not collect dues and hence does not have any permanent budget line. This is a conscious strategy to promote group membership and inclusion. However, group members have been able to secure crucial travel funds from the APSA and PSA, through grant programs in the two associations, as well as their home institutions. Thus, limited funding has not posed a major obstacle for group activities.
3. **Institutionalized Partners in Other Countries**—The French Policy and Politics Group of the PSA-UK has been a permanent partner with the group and partnerships with the French Political Science Association and the Institute of Political Science in Paris and other French political science establishments are now becoming an integral part of future activities. It has also been important to use other association meetings as a platform for collaborative activities.
4. **Section Awards Generate Interest and Attention**—Section awards are important for rewarding the work of individual scholars, but also in engaging other scholars into the work of the committees and drawing attention to the group and to the study of French Politics more generally speaking.
5. **Cosmopolitan Membership Representing all Career Stages**—Our membership is not only American—over half are from universities outside of the U.S. with many U.S. members spending significant chunks of their careers in universities outside of the U.S. In addition, our members span all of the different levels of political science—graduate student, junior, mid-level, and senior. The significant participation of a new generation of French politics scholars has been crucial for this group's success. In the U.S. and the UK, new generation scholars place the study of France in the larger context of political science theory-building and methodology. In France, the younger political scientists are much more open to international collaboration.
6. **APSA Short Course Format**—The flexibility and ease of the short course is an important venue for allowing scholars to work with each other and to introduce political scientists outside of French politics to our work. Given that short courses are automatically accepted; scholars are able to participate in the program (and hence be eligible for institutional funding) without having to be accepted on highly competitive panels.
7. **APSA Annual Meeting an Important, but not Unique Focal Point**—The APSA Annual Meeting is a crucial and necessary meeting point, since many scholars from other countries typically are able to get funded to come to APSA meetings. Scholars already based at American universities—over half of our members—tend to attend these meeting regularly. The panels and short courses serve as arenas for our discussions and the business meeting is the locus for our group's annual decision-making. However, it has been very important that our group has other venues in the UK and now in France to meet, to avoid the perception that the group is dominated by the U.S. and to reach out to other scholars who do not attend the APSA Annual Meeting.
8. **Developing Manageable Teaching and Research Projects that are Linked to Mainstream Political Science**—The collaborative projects have been thus far moderate, focused on presenting research and teaching. Panels and short courses have been aimed at non-French specialists who are active in the discipline. It is helpful to aim for a collaborative publication as well, but only as a culmination of the moderate level projects. Thus, project development is incremental and organic; a function of a critical mass of interest, rather than any lofty long-term strategic plans.
9. **A Related, but not Affiliated Journal**—The *French Politics* journal has been an important venue for members to submit manuscripts for review and as such, it has given a certain level of scholarly meaning to research on French politics more broadly speaking. However, the journal remains completely autonomous from the group; each entity is not dependent on the other for its organization success and impetus.

**10. Group Members Willing to Invest Time and to Share the Burden of Work**—While it is crucial to have one person who is responsible to oversee the work of the group and to be the point person, it is essential that different group tasks are taken up by willing volunteers. These include web site design and main-

tenance, award committee work, member list management, chair and organization of panels, and panel discussants, to name a few. This sharing of tasks minimizes the convener's job. It is important to note that very little staff time has been used to get the work of the group done—again showing that a key to success is not hav-

ing large amounts of resources.

For more on the group, contact either of us or visit the group's web site (<http://www.wsu.edu/~frg/>). Amy Mazur ([mazur@mail.wsu.edu](mailto:mazur@mail.wsu.edu)) or Andrew Appleton ([Appleton@wsu.edu](mailto:Appleton@wsu.edu)).

## References

Billordo, Libia. 2005a. "Publishing in French Political Science Journals: An Inventory of

Methods and Sub-fields." *French Politics* 3(2): 178–86.

———. 2005b. "Methods Training in French Political Science." *French Politics* 3(3): 352–57.

# APSA Strengthens International Ties

In January, 2006, APSA staff met with the President Alexander Nikitin of the Russian Political Science Association (RPSA) for discussions at the National Office in Washington, D.C. APSA is interested in establishing functional and research-based ties with scholarly communities overseas and these talks were an encouraging part of this process. As a start, APSA has agreed to provide RPSA with information on news and events in the discipline, while the RPSA has invited Thomas Remington, department chair at Emory University, to serve as a plenary speaker at their upcoming Annual Meeting in Moscow this October.



RPSA President Alexander Nikitin (left) discusses establishing closer institutional ties with APSA Executive Director Michael Brintnall.

On behalf of APSA President Ira Katznelson, and as chair of the APSA Committee on International Relations, Richard J. Samuels represented the APSA at the annual meeting of the Korean Political Science Association in Seoul on 1 December, 2005. This visit was in response to the invitation of KPSA President Byung-Kie Yang and was undertaken at the full expense of the KPSA, which was in all respects a very fine host. In addition to President Yang, the meeting featured the participation of the presidents of three other national political science associations: China (Li Shenming), Russia (Alexander Nikitin), and Japan (Watanabe Hiroshi). This gathering of association presidents was described at the first ever, and the hope was expressed by President Yang—seconded by the others—that it be the first in a series of such congresses.

# Upcoming International Events

## 2006

**May 24–26:** Moscow State University Annual International Conference on Public Administration: Public Administration in the XXI Century: Traditions and Innovations, Moscow, Russia, [www.spa.msu.ru](http://www.spa.msu.ru).

**May 27–June 1:** Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The City: A Festival of Knowledge, York University, Toronto, Canada, [www.fedcan.ca/congress2006/letter.htm](http://www.fedcan.ca/congress2006/letter.htm).

**May 28–June 3:** Bradley University's Berlin Seminar, Berlin, Germany, [www.bradley.edu/academics/las/his/Berlin](http://www.bradley.edu/academics/las/his/Berlin).

**May 29–31:** Slovenian Political Science Conference, Portoroz, Slovenia, <http://guests.fdv.uni-lj.si/spod/default.htm>.

**June 1–3:** Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, [www.cpsa-acsp.ca/template\\_e.cfm?folder=conference](http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/template_e.cfm?folder=conference).

**June 4–10:** The History of Turkish-American Relations, Bogazici University, Istanbul and Harran University, Urfa, [americanturkishconference@boun.edu.tr](mailto:americanturkishconference@boun.edu.tr).

**June 10–12:** XV International Conference of the Academy of Business & Administrative Sciences (ABAS), Vilnius, Lithuania, [www.sba.muohio.edu/abas/](http://www.sba.muohio.edu/abas/).

**July 9–14:** International Political Science Association, 20th World Congress, Fukuoka, Japan, [www.fukuoka2006.com](http://www.fukuoka2006.com).

**July 13–16:** Poetry and Politics, University of Stirling, Scotland, [www.poetryandpolitics.stir.ac.uk/](http://www.poetryandpolitics.stir.ac.uk/).

**July 24–29:** 10th Conference of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI), The European Mind: Narrative and Identity, University of Malta, <http://issei2006.haifa.ac.il/>.

**August 7–18:** ECPR Summer School for Methods & Techniques, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, [www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/summerschools/ljubljana/index.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/summerschools/ljubljana/index.aspx).

**September 4–6:** 3rd Latin American Political Science Association Congress "Democracy and Inequalities," University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brasil, [www.ifch.unicamp.br/alacip](http://www.ifch.unicamp.br/alacip).

**September 6–9:** European Group of Public Administration Meeting on Public Sector Performance Information, Milan, Italy, <http://soc.kuleuven.be/io/egpa/qual/milan/milan.htm>.

**September 7–9:** European-American Relations and the Middle East from Suez to Iraq, Zurich, Switzerland, [www.isn.ethz.ch/php/conferences/UpcomingEvents/2006\\_zurich.htm](http://www.isn.ethz.ch/php/conferences/UpcomingEvents/2006_zurich.htm).

**September 7–9:** European Consortium for Political Research, First ECPR Graduate Conference, University of Essex, UK, <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ECPR/events/graduateconference/index.asp>.

**October 18–20:** International Conference on Governance, Institutions and Networks, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, [www.apsanet.org/content\\_25065.cfm](http://www.apsanet.org/content_25065.cfm).

## APSA International Membership

COUNTRY	MEMBERS
Canada	339
United Kingdom	286
Japan	214
Germany	141
South Korea	58
Israel	48
Netherlands	47
Australia	47
Sweden	42
Mexico	39
Italy	39
France	38
Switzerland	36
Norway	31
Ireland	30
Taiwan	27
Brazil	25
Denmark	25
Spain	23
Turkey	23
Belgium	18
Chile	17
Singapore	14
New Zealand	14
Greece	12
Austria	12
Hong Kong, China	12
Ukraine	12
Finland	12
China	9
Portugal	8
Thailand	8
Scotland	8
India	7
Lebanon	7
Argentina	7
Venezuela	6
Nigeria	6
Romania	5
Philippines	5
Poland	5
S. Africa	5
United Arab Emirates	5
Bulgaria	5
Peru	4
Hungary	4
Czech Republic	4
Estonia	4
Croatia	4
Armenia, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Pakistan	3
N. Ireland, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Bahrain, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Bangladesh, Colombia	2
Jamaica, Serbia, El Salvador, Trinidad & Tobago, Paraguay, Latvia, Uganda, Macedonia, Tajikistan, Lithuania, Yugoslavia, Guam, Uruguay, Cameroon, Moldova	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,845</b>