

## **Short Course 8: New Challenges, New Opportunities: The CSES and EES Data Sets**

Co-Sponsors: CSES and PIREDEU

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Registration: No fee; please register by contacting Jill Wittrock by email.

Time: 9:30AM – 5:00PM

Location: APSA Annual Meeting site

Instructors: Prof. John Aldrich, Duke University  
Prof. Mark Franklin, EUI  
Dr. Jill Wittrock, University of Oxford

The CSES and PIREDEU are offering a joint short course on electoral research using data from the comparative study of electoral systems (CSES) project and the European Election Studies (EES) series. The CSES is a collaborative program of research among election study teams from around the world. The CSES is unique among comparative post-electoral studies because of the extent of cross-national collaboration at all stages of the project: the research agenda, the survey instrument, and the study design are developed by the CSES Planning Committee, and this design is then implemented in each country as part of their national post-election studies. The resulting data are deposited along with voting, demographic, district and macro variables. The PIREDEU project aims to design an infrastructure for research into citizenship, political participation and electoral democracy in the member states of the EU. The goal of PIREDEU is to provide a comprehensive empirical database under the auspices of the EES. In the field of electoral studies, the EES is one of the very few cross-system, cross-temporal datasets, and the only comparative data project that combines cross-national voter surveys with elite and media data.

The objective of the CSES component session is to provide participants with a broad overview of the rich data set that constitutes the CSES, to develop an appreciation of the wide variety of research questions that can be addressed with CSES data, and to explore some of the methodological challenges that are involved in using multi-level data. The instructors will assist the participants on issues and concerns that arise in their own research.

The objective of the EES session (organized by PIREDEU) is to provide participants an introduction to the content and the analytical possibilities of the EES as an instrument of comparative studies on electoral politics, political parties, political behavior, representation and European integration. The topics covered will include the different components of the EES, information on the content of available data (including 2009 data), and a discussion of the methodological possibilities and challenges related to the use of this data set.