

## **Report from the President**

**Ofer Feldman, Ph.D.**

**IPSA's World Congress, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 19-24, 2014 August 10, 2014**

### *Greetings from Kyoto!*

IPSA's 23rd World Congress of Political Science was held in Montreal, Canada, from 19 to 24 July 2014. The Congress was attended by some 3,000 participants- scholars, researchers, and students- and, as ever, hosted a variety of activities including Research Committees' panels, plenaries and sessions, symposiums, and special guests lectures. As the conference date approached, more than 600 papers' presenters, who proposed their abstracts to the different panels, decided not pay their dues and to withdraw from the Congress. They were deleted eventually from the final program. With this decision, withdrawing presenters have affected the structure of the various panels as well as the Congress final program.

Our RC was also impacted by this large cancellation of attendance. A few months before the conference started, and meeting the deadline for constructing panels for the Congress, I was able to secure four panels with 18 papers for our RC. Barely three weeks before the Montreal meeting started, after their paper appeared in the preliminary program, seven of our presenters decided, for various reasons, not to attend the meeting. In my view, they could have long before informed me (as the Convenor and the person in charge of our RC's activities) on their doubts in attending the conference, saving thus me and others a great deal of inconvenience.

Eventually, as these individuals withdrew from the Congress and were excluded from the final program, IPSA gave me one weekend to reorganize our RC panels. According to IPSA's regulations, a panel should include at least four papers; otherwise it is cancelled altogether. I had thus only three days to approach other RC chairs that faced with the same situation and to negotiate on combined (joint) panels. Successful negotiations with colleagues from such Research Committees as Political Power resulted in having three full papers' panels for our RC. These panels were:

*Panel no. 1: Panel Code: RC29.561. Psychological Bases of Political Attitudes and Behavior: A Cross-Cultural, Cross-National Examination*

Convenor: Prof. Ofer Feldman

Chair: Prof. Ofer Feldman

The panel examines various psychological and social psychological characteristics and mechanisms that are associated with political attitudes and behavior in different political, social, and cultural environments including such countries as Israel, Russia, Catalonia, and Croatia. Papers detail aspects of moral dilemma related to the amount of force to be used in order to harm a terrorist; the effect of personality on political attitudes and judgment; the structure and characteristics of political cynicism; the structure of political images of one's country and their effects; and the qualitative methods research perspective on studying the cognitive psychology of conflicting belief systems.

Paper: (1) Moral Dilemmas in the War against Terror: The Proportionality Principle, Religiosity, Political Attitudes and Authoritarian Personality. By Prof. Shaul Kimhi

(2) Political Cynicism and Kynicism of Croatian Citizens: Profiles of Political Thinking and Behaviour. By Dr. Nebojsa Blanus

(3) Seeking Qualitative Data to Follow Conflictual Belief Systems. By Dr. Charles Mitchell

(4) The Media Contact Habit, Media Trust and Civic Political Participation in China: Taking Two National Large-N Surveys as Example. By Dr. Hongna Miao

Date: Sunday, July 20th 17:00~18:45

Venue: Palais des congrès Room: 522a

*Panel no. 2: Panel Code: RC29.377 Talking Politics: Politicians, Journalists, and the Public Debate*

Convenor: Prof. Ofer Feldman

Chair: Dr. Peter Bull

Discussants: Dr. Nebojsa Blanusa

This panel details selected aspects related to elite discourse in a cross-national, cross-cultural contexts. It focuses in particular on the rhetoric of politicians and journalists as both try to affect the nature and the substance of public debate and attention in such countries as the USA, UK, Germany and Japan. Using variety of research methods and approaches papers in this panel will assess leaders' skill and effectiveness in speeches, broadcast interviews, and questions to the prime minister (PMQs), utilizing illustrative examples from television broadcasts with British politicians; provide information on how Japanese leading politicians cope with the communicative problems posed to them during televised political interviews; and will try to evaluate the political influence of various online media on politicians, journalists, and the public in Germany.

Papers: (1) Do Presumed Media Effects Have an Influence on Online Activities of Politicians? By Dr. Uli Bernhard & Dr. Marco Dohle

(2) Follow-ups in Broadcast Political Discourse: Speeches, Interviews and Parliamentary Questions. By Dr. Peter Bull

(3) Invited Behavior by Dr. Michael Krasner

(4) Political Interviews in Japanese Television: A Study on Rhetoric and Equivocation. By Prof. Ofer Feldman & Dr. Ken Kinoshita

Date: Tuesday, July 22nd 13:00-14:45

Venue: Palais des congrès Room: 521a

*Panel no. 3: Panel Code: RC29.573 Profiling Political Leaders and the Analysis of Political Leadership: Cross-Cultural Aspects of Personality and Behavior*

Convenor: Prof. Ofer Feldman

Chair: Prof. Shaul Kimhi

Co-Chair: Prof. Alan Siaroff

Discussants: Dr. Michael Krasner & Dr. Willibald Sonnleitner

The panel includes papers that present different features related to political leaders and leadership and the relations between leaders and their followers from a psychological and social psychological viewpoints. Taken as a whole the papers in this panel suggest further assessment on the role and function played by leaders in democratic and non-democratic political regimes; on the socio-cultural and psychological factors that affect the communication style and techniques leaders use when interacting with their supporters in both small and large groups venues, and the outcome of this communication methods; and on the effect of personality and character, as well as other aspects of popular leaders, on public opinion and judgment as they try mobilize the vote.

Papers: (1) Demystifying the Roots of Leadership: A Study of Perceptions of Indian Youth. By Dr. Vijay Laxmi Pandit

(2) Security Governance in Plural Societies and the Challenges of Counter Terrorism in Nigeria. Dr. Joses Gani Yoroms

(3) Testing Effects of Motivated Reasoning: Perception and Evaluation of the Former Czech Presidents. By Ms. Lenka Hrbková & Dr. Roman Chytilek

(4) The President of the Republic as Effective Legislator: The Contribution of the Brazilian Constitution of 1988 to the Predominance of the Executive over the Legislative Power. By Mr. Vinícius Alves

Date: Wednesday, July 23rd 17:00~18:45

Venue: Palais des congrès Room: 512c

### **Business meeting**

During the Congress, in July 23, the RC held a business meeting to discuss issues of common research interests. During this meeting I detailed on the status of membership during the last two years since the Madrid meeting; on the process of evaluating papers and panels for the current Congress; and on issues which were on IPSA's agenda for the coming 2016 Istanbul World Congress.

In this meeting I have also decided to add new two young members to our list of officers: Dr. Nebojša Blanuša, an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. He teaches social and political psychology and research methods. His research interests include psychoanalytic approaches to nationalism, conspiratorial thinking in everyday politics, Euroscepticism, historical cleavages; and Dr. Ken Kinoshita, an Assistant in Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. His research interest include political communication and psychology, political process and legislation in Japan, and research methods. Our list of officers is enclosed.

Below is also a photo of the RC's officers during the business meeting. From right to left are Ken Kinoshita, Hongna Miao, Nebojša Blanuša, Peter Bull, Shaul Kimhi, and Ofer Feldman.

### **List of IPSA RC29 Officers (tenure 2012-2015)**

**Chair:** Ofer Feldman (Japan)

[ofeldman@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:ofeldman@mail.doshisha.ac.jp) <http://www1.doshisha.ac.jp/~ofeldman/>

**Vice Chair:** Paul Dekker (the Netherlands) [p.dekker@scp.nl](mailto:p.dekker@scp.nl)

[http://www.scp.nl/Organisatie/Alle\\_medewerkers/Dekker\\_Paul](http://www.scp.nl/Organisatie/Alle_medewerkers/Dekker_Paul)

**Secretary:** Mariana Perry (Chile) [marianperry@gmail.com](mailto:marianperry@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Hongna Miao (China) [hnmiao@gmail.com](mailto:hnmiao@gmail.com)

### **Members of the Board**

Peter Bull (UK) [peb1@psych.york.ac.uk](mailto:peb1@psych.york.ac.uk) <http://drbull.nfshost.com/About>

Michael Krasner (USA) [mkrasner@sover.net](mailto:mkrasner@sover.net)  
[http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/political\\_science/krasner.html](http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/political_science/krasner.html)

Robert Gilbert (USA) [r.gilbert@neu.edu](mailto:r.gilbert@neu.edu)  
<http://www.northeastern.edu/polisci/people/full-time-faculty/robert-e-gilbert/>

Shaul Kimhi (Israel) [shaul@shamir.org.il](mailto:shaul@shamir.org.il)  
<http://website.telhai.ac.il/en/?cmd=departments.522>

Sonja Zmerli (Germany) [zmerli@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:zmerli@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)  
[http://www.politikwissenschaft.tu-darmstadt.de/index.php?id=pw\\_zmerli](http://www.politikwissenschaft.tu-darmstadt.de/index.php?id=pw_zmerli)

Joseluis Mendez (Mexico) [jlmendez@colmex.mx](mailto:jlmendez@colmex.mx)  
<http://www.colmex.mx/academicos/cei/jlmendez/>

Alexandra Jolanda (Romania) [ada\\_toader@yahoo.com](mailto:ada_toader@yahoo.com)

Dmitri Lanko (Russia) [dimppa@hotmail.com](mailto:dimppa@hotmail.com)

Henk Dekker (the Netherlands) [dekkerh@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:dekkerh@fsw.leidenuniv.nl) <http://www.socialsciences.leiden.edu/politicalscience/organisation/faculty/dekker-prof-dr-h.html>

Nebojša Blanuša (Croatia) [nblanusa@fpzg.hr](mailto:nblanusa@fpzg.hr)  
[http://prethodni.fpzg.hr/oFakultetu/stranicePredavaca/blanusa\\_nebojsa.htm](http://prethodni.fpzg.hr/oFakultetu/stranicePredavaca/blanusa_nebojsa.htm)

Ken Kinoshita (Japan) [kk6453660@gmail.com](mailto:kk6453660@gmail.com)  
[https://kenkyudb.doshisha.ac.jp/rd/html/english/researchersHtml/114202/114202\\_Researcher.html](https://kenkyudb.doshisha.ac.jp/rd/html/english/researchersHtml/114202/114202_Researcher.html)

**Website:** <http://rc29.ipsa.org>

Last, As ever, you are encouraged to submit any information on your research or teaching activities, or publications, that you think others may find of interest to our webmaster, Hongna Miao in the address detailed above.

Best regards,

Ofer Feldman, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Psychology Faculty of Policy Studies & the Graduate School of Policy and Management

Doshisha University

Keisuikan 228 Kamigyo-ku, Imadegawa, Kyoto JAPAN 602-8580

Tel/Fax: (+81) 75-251-3502

e-mail : [ofeldman@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:ofeldman@mail.doshisha.ac.jp)