

# International Political Science

---

## International Political Science Association News

---

**Richard L. Merritt**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

At its last meeting in late August in IPSA program committee reached final decisions about the program and convenors for the XIth World Congress, to be held on August 9-13, 1982 (tentatively) in Rio de Janeiro. The sections offered within the framework of the regular program are as follows:

### I. Search for a New International Order

a. Peace and Security. (i) Detente and conflict management; (ii) Disarmament and arms limitation; (iii) Local conflicts and escalation; (iv) Foreign policy and new world complexities.

b. Problems of International Asymmetry. (i) Economic asymmetry; (ii) Political and cultural asymmetry; (iii) Dependency and autonomy: historical and contemporary perspectives.

c. International Institutions and Processes. (i) Universal and regional institutions; (ii) Transnational actors.

d. Nonalignment and International Change. (i) Concept of nonalignment; (ii) Dynamics and future of nonalignment.

e. Communication and Information. (i) Structure of international information; (ii) Modes of inter-governmental communication; (iii) Informal communication across national boundaries.

f. Global Modelling. (i) Modelling global processes; (ii) Data basis for global modelling.

### II. Society and the Political Community

a. Regulation of Citizenship. (i) Demands for and access to citizenship; (ii) Citizenship and human rights; (iii) New limitations on citizenship: exclusions and ostracisms; (iv) Citizenship and democracy.

b. Participation and Marginality. (i) Participants and marginals in the political system; (ii) Representation and repression; (iii) Mass political demands and the transformation of expectations; (iv) Experience and systems of self-management.

c. Communication and Political Processes. (i) Political decisions and concentration of information media; (ii) Information media and induction of political behavior; (iii) Events production and divulgation: a two-way relationship; (iv) Information and its controls; (v) Politics and the high information society.

d. Democratization: Processes and Problems. (i) Crises and breakdown in authoritarian regimes; (ii) Crises and breakdown in democratic regimes; (iii) Consolidation of democratic systems in post-authoritarian societies; (iv) Social polarization, cleavages, and political pluralism; (v) Democracy and political systems and social subsystems: compatibility and conflict.

e. Interpenetration of Society in the State: Substance and Forms. (i) New forms of governmental intervention; (ii) Conflicts of public allocation; (iii) The new cooperativism; (iv) Role of quasi-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### III. Political Discourse: Past, Present, and Future

a. Political Epistemology. (i) Universal pragmatics; (ii) Social hermeneutics.

b. Symbols and Myths. (i) Structural aspects; (ii) Cross-cultural aspects.

c. Political Semantics. (i) Structural semantics; (ii) Context of political discourse.

d. Political Argument. (i) Argumentation, liberty, and efficaciousness; (ii) Logic of dialectical argument.

Until section convenors are announced, the best persons to contact are: for *Theme I*, Richard L. Merritt, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801; for *Theme II*, Asher Arian, Department of Political Science, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel; and for *Theme III*, Hayward R. Alker, Jr., Department of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

In addition, as noted earlier, Richard Rose of the Politics Department, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ, Scotland, is organizing a set of special meetings which fall outside the topics listed above.

Plans for the World Congress itself are shaping up. The new building in downtown Rio of the Candido Mendes University will be ready in time; and the local arrangements committee has begun developing some creative ideas (such as a visit by a samba school). Pre- and post-Congress tours are being organized for (a) Rio and its environs, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Oporto; (b) Rio, Sao Paulo, Iguasue; (c) Salvador, Bahia, Olinda; (d) Manocal, Amazon; and (e) Rio and its environs. Charter flights and package tours are being explored.

*Research Committee for Comparative Judicial Studies.* The Committee has tentatively set April 6-8, 1981 for its next interim meeting, to be held at Mansfield College, Oxford, England. Its agenda includes papers on the development and contemporary progress of comparative judicial studies in various countries and areas of specialization. For details, contact John R. Schmidhauser, Department of Political Science, University of Southern California, Von Kleinsmid Center 327, Los Angeles, California 90007.

*Weimar Roundtable on Detente.* The International Roundtable on Detente: Reasons, Demands, Obstacles, held in Weimar, German Democratic Republic, on August 25-28, 1980, produced lively discussion among the three dozen participants from east and west as well as the Third World. A list of papers and the papers themselves will be available from the Secretariat of the International Political Science Association, a/s Political Science Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa K1N 6N5, Canada.