

International Political Science

1997 IPSA World Congress

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) has established program guidelines for its 1997 World Congress, and is now calling for proposals for panels and papers. The Seventeenth World Congress will be held on August 17–21, 1997, under the main theme of Conflict and Order.

The conference is organized into groups of panels, generally following the divisions used in the Sixteenth World Congress in Berlin and in previous congresses. However, there will be three sessions (rather than two) per day to help reduce conflicts among panels. The program will contain 200 panels of up to four papers each, divided into 45 panels on the main theme, 50 panels of special (volunteer) sessions, 70 sessions organized by research committees and 8 by study groups, 8 panels on the state of the discipline, and 12 regional panels. In the Seventeenth Congress there will be an increased emphasis on volunteered papers and panels (nearly 50 percent more special sessions than in previous congresses) in order to involve the growing interest in political science around the world (see more detailed instructions on proposing panels below).

The main theme of the Congress, Conflict and Order, focusses attention on the two dominant aspects of politics at the end of the millennium. Conflict and order constitute the poles of politics and their study is the essence of political science. Conflict and order are eternal as the subject of political science, but they are particularly topical as the old international order has fallen away, releasing conflict where it is most unexpected; order has broken down in the world system and in the sovereign order of states, raising problems for current human interaction and calling for new study and definition. Attention to the main theme has been organized by groups of sub-topics, on The Utility of Conflict and The Limits on Order, Moral Order and Moral Conflict, Conflicts of State and National Order, Institutional Conflict and Order, and The Management of Conflict and

the Search for World Order. The 45 panels on these themes are currently being organized by invited conveners; however, volunteered papers on these themes will be communicated to the conveners for either listing or presentation at the scheduled sessions.

The conference also is governed by two "spirits," the spirit of universality and the spirit of practicality. Since the Seventeenth World Congress of IPSA will be its first conference in the non-Western world and the first conference in Asia, it is particularly appropriate to examine some of the major conceptual challenges to the universality of political science. Located on the border between East and West, combining economic modernization and cultural traditions, Korea poses problems of frontiers and universality in the main ideas of political science. It is a fitting site from which to explore the degree of universalism in the discipline at a time of conflict over so-called Western concepts, Western values, Western political systems, and Western powers.

The other spirit is one of practicality. The work of political science is to conceive of effective orders that will enable goals to be achieved and productive activities to be performed within the constitutional structures of states and the institutionalized interaction among states. Just as social contract notions came to the fore in the 18th century to meet the needs for the conceptualization of national insurgence over monarchies, and political development notions in the middle of the 20th century responded to the call for conceptualizing anticolonial takeover of the "real country" over the "legal country," so today new ideas are required to deal with such issues as collapsed states, cooperation under anarchy, alternative dispute resolution, urban violence, and many other contradictions at the crossroads of conflict and order.

Thus, the eight panels on the state of the discipline will focus on a confrontation of "Eastern" and "Western" views over the universality of such political science concepts as power, order, community, citizenship, conflict

and its resolution, security, state, and justice. Similarly, the six plenary sessions will be devoted to debates over some major current themes and to the testimony of some major political scientists who have entered into practical politics. One of the scheduled plenary speakers will be the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

Of the regional sessions, seven will be devoted to the special concerns of various regions of the world, and five will be devoted to the region in which the congress is being held, the Pacific Rim.

Proposals for panels or for individual papers should be addressed to the XVII World Congress Program Chairman, I. William Zartman, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1984; fax: (202) 663-5683; e-mail: tsimmons@mail.jhuwash.jhu.edu.

Proposals for panels should include the names and topics of no more than four paper presenters and a discussant with their full addresses, faxes and e-mail numbers where available. The proposal should contain a 500-word abstract of the panel. Panel proposers are encouraged to pay particular attention to the inclusion of younger scholars with a broad geographic diversity in the panel's composition, and to a full representation of women scholars. All panel members should not come from the same institution or the same country. Panel proposers are urged to keep one slot free in order to accommodate any individual proposal which might fit on the panel, although it is of course quite permissible to have a paper presenter in reserve in case a volunteered paper does not appear.

Individual paper proposals should include the name and address plus fax and e-mail numbers of the proposer, as well as a 300-word abstract of the paper. Proposals must be received by the Program Chairman by April 1, 1996. It will be difficult to consider proposals after that date.