

July 2008

Dear RC Colleagues:

As your chair, I attended the conference of research committees in Montreal in early May. I found the discussions, organized by Rainer, to be fascinating and was really stimulated by our discussions and the other RC heads that I met.

I did a presentation of the importance of pluralism that seems best summed up by “pluralism is key to understanding almost everything in politics”. It seemed to be well received. In it, I reported on what our members have been considering in the last years.

The conference was a preview of the IPSA meeting next July in Santiago. The preparations seem to be far along and the conference seems to be shaping up to be a fascinating one. Each research committee is expected to sponsor at least two panels. We need to have our final panels done by November 1, 2008. Raymond Hudson has sent me one proposal and I will be forwarding the final draft to you as soon as I get it. Is there anyone else who would like to convene a panel: they are listed on the IPSA website to draw participants, as needed and appropriate, from outside the RCs as well.

Out of it also has come a proposal to join with the RCs that do Religion and Politics and Political Philosophy in sponsoring two panels (in addition to the ones that we have ourselves). The two panels, as the preliminary titles now stand are:

Panel I: Religion and Democratic Citizenship: Advocacy and Identity (This panel will focus on the interaction between religious groups, their values, and the making of policies from the perspective of different world regions and religions, including their diverse philosophical and empirical realities)

Panel 2: Pluralistic Encounters among Religions in Global Politics (This panel will focus on the role of religious institutions, religious beliefs, and international politics.)

It seems to me that these are areas that we have touched on but not really dealt with and that this is a great forum to start the exploration and share the discussion. I hope that this “works” for you and that some of you will be drawn to do papers for these panels as well. Remember, these do not preclude our doing panels as “ours” along.

I know travel is becoming increasingly expensive but the organizers are arranging special fares. Since we will miss a year and we have been looking to expand our reach into Latin America, etc., this seems a perfect venue.

Do let me know if you have any panel suggestions or want to do a paper on one of the other panels.

I hope all is well with you. It would be very useful if you could send Christian Leuprecht (christian.leuprecht@rmc.ca); Krzysztof (jasiewiczzk@wlu.edu) or myself (jcurry@scu.edu) information about what you have been working on most recently and what you have published or given as a conference paper. I am interested.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in Santiago and to hearing from you in the interim.

Janey Curry