

BULLETIN

PUBLICATION CONJOINTE DE / JOINT PUBLICATION OF
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE
&
CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

(ISSN 0319-6461)

Mars 1976
cinquième année
No. 4

V / 4

March 1976
volume V
No. 4

Government and Social Sciences

Jan LOUBSER
Guy ROCHER
C.M. DRURY
Marc LALONDE
I.R.P.P.
Léon DION

Le gouvernement et les sciences sociales

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au sujet du bulletin
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The Bulletin is pleased to present to its readers an edited English version of Professor Léon Dion's text "Les usages politiques de la science politique". The French version has appeared in its original form in the September 1975 issue of the Canadian Journal of Political Science, and in an abridged form in Vol. 3, No. 4 of Social Sciences in Canada. According to the latter, it is a text "dont l'importance et la portée dépassent de loin les frontières de la science politique".

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The next C.P.S.A. Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 26th and Saturday, March 27th, at the Donald Gordon Conference Centre of Queen's University, KINGSTON.

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Merci.

La présente livraison du Bulletin aurait été bien différente de ce qu'elle est sans l'aide de plusieurs personnes, dont Lise Lavoie (Conseil canadien des recherches en sciences sociales), Stanislav Kirschbaum, Françoise Kempf et Alfred Grosser (Institut d'études politiques), Thomas J. Lewis, les nombreux correspondants du Bulletin et l'infatigable Marlene Moore. Merci à tous!

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Deadline for the inclusion of material in the May issue of the Bulletin:

April 15, 1976.

Date-limite pour faire paraître vos communications dans la livraison de mai:

15 avril 1976.

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"LESS MONEY AVAILABLE
TO SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS IN UNIVERSITIES"

Jan Loubser, Director of the Social Science Research Council of Canada recently analysed available data on federal expenditures on human science activities during the period 1970-1974. Since the tabling of the Lamontagne Report, the state of social science research funding has not improved in Canada.

Grosso modo, there was less money available to social science researchers in universities in 1974 than there was in 1970 while their federal government counterparts saw their position greatly improved, although on the whole they are not as qualified in terms of academic degrees as the social scientists in Canadian universities.

He suggested the mobilisation of all national resources to encourage fundamental social science research on topics deriving from the theoretical insights and problems of scholars as well as our perceptions of major national problems and needs. He noted it is time to begin to conduct the policy studies that will provide the new granting council for the social sciences and humanities with at least the baseline data needed for the development of effective policies in support of high-quality fundamental social research in Canada. Speaking of "fundamental research", he suggested that Lamontagne's distinction between curiosity-oriented and mission-oriented research be discarded and the latter called something like manipulation or control-oriented research.

Jan Loubser recommends the encouragement of top social scientists to turn their attention to the building up of a fundamentally sound knowledge base on Canadian society and its future. Canadian federalism and democratic political traditions would provide a firm basis for ensuring that an institute created for this purpose remained an open institution, independent of domination by any particular group or sector. It could be accountable to the people of Canada with a mandate along the lines of the university as an institution of learning. Its reports should be published for the ordinary Canadian to comprehend and should not be subject to possible government suppression. Such an institute would be a total waste of resources unless rigorous criteria for the demonstrable plausibility and soundness of the knowledge it stored and integrated were not maintained and continuously subjected to professional and public assessment. It would rely heavily on a continuous, systematic programme of the new research council. It would provide a basis for meaningful dialogue about national objectives, priorities, or goals. Finally, it would also require a new approach to social problems and processes, including the policy-making process and the way social scientists are used to relate to it.

Dr. Loubser recommends the establishment of a clear central point of social science policy advice to the federal government, and ideally to other levels of government also. Neither the new granting council nor the suggested institute can fulfill this role, and the Ministry of State for Science and Technology does not seem the proper mechanism for the coordination of social science policy. The idea

of a professional and objective advisory body that could be appropriately staffed with scientific personnel and could provide adequate information and analysis of policy options remained an attractive and necessary aspect of federal organisation for science policy, in his opinion.

Copies of Jan Loubser's analysis and recommendations are available from Lise Lavoie, Information Officer, The Social Science Research Council of Canada, 151 Slater Street, OTTAWA, Ontario K1P 5H3.

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"LES CHERCHEURS EN SCIENCES SOCIALES
ONT CONTRIBUÉ AU CONSERVATISME ET AU
MANQUE D'IMAGINATION DES POLITIQUES SOCIALES"

La première Conférence nationale des sciences sociales tenue à Ottawa du 20 au 22 novembre 1975 a réuni près de six cents personnes dans les murs du Château Laurier et ceux du Centre des conférences durant la soirée du jeudi et la journée du vendredi jusqu'au début de l'après-midi du samedi. Parmi ces participants, on remarquait trois ministres du cabinet fédéral, huit membres du Parlement, sept sous-ministres fédéraux et trois sous-ministres des provinces.

Guy Rocher, conférencier invité, a ouvert la conférence en prononçant un discours lors du banquet du jeudi soir, discours qui mettait en lumière les problèmes de l'implantation des sciences sociales dans les politiques gouvernementales. M. Rocher, professeur de sociologie à l'université de Montréal, sur un ton provocateur plutôt que poli disait: "Qu'ils soient publics ou privés, qu'ils représentent l'autorité ou qu'ils la contestent, ceux qui ont le pouvoir ou qui cherchent à en avoir posent généralement des problèmes de conscience aux chercheurs des sciences sociales. Et ces problèmes de conscience sont complexes parce qu'ils sont fait d'apparentes contradictions."

Le champ de recherche de ces chercheurs dépasse celui des décisions politiques. La proximité du pouvoir peut influencer les chercheurs qui, en retour, sont accusés de manque d'objectivité. Toutefois, les chercheurs requièrent les fonds distribués par ceux au pouvoir.

En tenant compte de ces faits, on a raison de conclure que "les chercheurs en sciences sociales et les personnes au pouvoir n'ont pas été faits pour travailler ensemble".

Plus loin, il examina de plus près le rôle que ces chercheurs ont joué dans l'élaboration de politiques et, probablement sans surprendre qui que ce soit, il dit que "les chercheurs en sciences sociales ont contribué au conservatisme et au manque d'imagination des politiques sociales".

"En tant que chercheurs ou hommes de science, les spécialistes des sciences sociales appartiennent à un univers de pensée différent de celui des hommes du pouvoir. Mais c'est en tant que citoyens partageant un même univers idéologique

qu'ils peuvent se rejoindre, communiquer et parfois travailler ensemble."

En terminant, M. Rocher, en parlant du rôle crucial des sciences sociales dans la société, disait que "malgré leur conservatisme collectif et en réaction contre lui, les chercheurs en sciences sociales, en tant que collectivité, ont le devoir de maintenir un examen critique des idéologies courantes qu'elles soient de droite ou de gauche".

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS US

"TO FIND THE MOST APPROPRIATE AND LEAST COSTLY
SOLUTION TO EACH PROBLEM"

At the opening plenary, the Honourable C.M. Drury spoke along similar lines. As a government spokesman, he stated: "...whatever the limitations of your disciplines we in government are highly interested in their advancement. Reliable knowledge in social matters would considerably facilitate decision-making, reduce the possibility of mistakes, and allow us to find the most appropriate and least costly solution to each problem that confronts us."

Also with communication as his main concern, John Deutsch, the Conference Chairman, established the mood that was to prevail during the day and a half, a mood of openness and exchange. "The social scientists need to communicate to the politicians the perceptions of their disciplines, what they know and what they don't know; what they might be able to do and what they cannot do. The politicians need to communicate to the social scientists what they require in systematic knowledge and information, along with inputs from other sources, to make intelligent judgments."

MARC LALONDE DÉSIRE

"PLUS DE CRITIQUES SUR LA POLITIQUE GOUVERNEMENTALE"

A la séance parallèle sur "Équité économique et la sécurité sociale, l'honorable Marc Lalonde exposa ses idées sur la contribution des sciences sociales à l'élaboration de politiques. Premièrement, il remarqua que cette récente contribution, inconnue il y a 20 ans, par conséquent, fait face à certains problèmes. La recherche fait toujours suite aux problèmes. "A moins que le directeur ne soit exceptionnellement prévoyant, on doit inévitablement vivre ces moments où l'homme politique ou le sous-ministre pose une question à laquelle il n'y a pas de réponse, voire qui n'a fait l'objet d'aucune recherche." La disponibilité et le manque de données constituent des problèmes sérieux. Parlant de l'interprétation des données, M. Lalonde a dit: "Une même table de données peut justifier l'une ou l'autre conclusion. Il n'est probablement pas raisonnable de s'attendre à ce que les observateurs ayant une perspective différente interprètent l'information de la même façon mais des 'règles' d'interprétation plus précises seraient sans doute très utiles." M. Lalonde demanda qu'on rédige "des documents plus efficaces, c'est-à-dire brefs bien écrits et intelligibles". Il ajouta: "Il serait en outre profitable d'inviter plus de critiques sur la politique gouvernementale, fondée sur une interprétation attentive de données contrôlables."

THE INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH ON PUBLIC POLICY

The I.R.P.P. has "as its mission research and analysis designed to improve the basis for informed choice and decision by the public of Canada and its leaders on questions of public policy". The Institute was incorporated, and opened its doors on 1 July 1974.

The basic research program is to be maintained by the income from a \$30,000,000 endowment, to be contributed 1/3 by the federal government, 1/3 by the provinces and 1/3 by the private sector. An initial non-recurring grant of \$950,000 was made by the Government of Canada to launch the program.

The effective criteria used in the selection of research projects are as follows. (1) The project should fall within a policy field of general interest to Canada in which one can anticipate substantial change over the next five to twenty-five years. (2) The project should be new in the sense that it should not be in a field occupied by other research endeavours or likely to be so occupied, unless there is substantial novelty in approach and design. (3) The need for and expected use of research results should be manifest: thus the utilisation of research results should be built into the research design. (4) The project should be performable within a reasonable period of time and within available resources.

The term public policy is undefined. The Institute determined that its initial research plan should center around the theme of population trends and developments in Canada, inasmuch as a population component is likely to be present in any major issue of Canadian public policy.

A number of other projects are in the course of being identified and designed. They include income distribution and expenditure; a case study on the development of public policy in the field of social security; the interrelationship of political units in Canada; Prince Edward Island energy policy; and public policy issues relating to development and the environment. In addition, attention will be given to international trade policies and to natural resources issues.

The professional staff collectively have backgrounds in anthropology, computer science, demography, economics, engineering physics, environmental studies, genetics, law, mathematics, physics, political science, sociology and statistics.

Enquiries respecting the Institute, its programme and appointment to its professional staff should be directed to its President, Mr. A.W.R. Carrothers, Suite 514, 3535 chemin Queen Mary, MONTREAL, Quebec, H3V 1H8 - (514) 342-9121.

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L'Institut de recherches politiques possède un mandat presque illimité pour entreprendre des recherches dans le domaine des politiques afin d'exercer une influence favorable sur la qualité de la prise de décision dans le domaine des politiques.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le Président, A.W.R. Carrothers à l'adresse et au numéro de téléphone indiqués ci-haut.

* REUNIONS PROCHAINES

UPCOMING MEETINGS *

MARCH 26 - 27 MARS 1976 / WATERLOO

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO INTER-UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION IN
CANADIAN NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL POLITICS (ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE)

One of the areas which the Ontario Advisory Committee on Academic Planning review of Political Science commented upon was the need for greater co-operation among the universities in southwestern Ontario.

In response, several groups of our colleagues have met or plan to meet to discuss mutual interests and problems in public administration, Asian politics, comparative and international politics, theory and urban politics. A similar meeting of some of the people interested in Canadian national and provincial politics was held last year.

Now it is time for a full-scale conference for those working and teaching in the Canadian area to establish their own sub-discipline group.

To that end an organizational conference will be held at the University of Waterloo on March 26 and 27, 1976. The conference will begin with a social gathering on Friday evening, March 26. On Saturday, March 27, there will be a workshop on research activities in the region, a workshop on the teaching of Canadian national and provincial politics and an organizational meeting to assess the future of the group.

The University of Waterloo Political Science Department will play host to this conference, and political scientists from Southwestern Ontario universities (Brock, Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo, Western, Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor) are cordially invited to attend. For additional information, please contact R.J. Williams, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo, (519) 885-1211, Ext. 3612.

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APRIL 8 - 13 AVRIL 1976 / LOUVAIN (BELGIQUE)

CPSA / ECPR TWINNED WORKSHOPS

The CPSA is arranging a series of twinned workshops with the European Consortium for Political Research. The first two workshops are scheduled for April 8 - 13, 1976, in Louvain. The topics are "Conflicts and Policy Options in Multi-national Societies" and "The Governmental Control of Multi-national Corporations". For additional information, contact John TRENT, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa, OTTAWA, Ontario, K1N 6N5.

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MAY 30 - JUNE 2 / QUEBEC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

30 MAI - 2 JUIN / QUEBEC

CONGRES ANNUEL DE LA SOCIETE CANADIENNE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

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MAY 31 - JUNE 1 / QUEBEC

CONFERENCE ON APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Panel I: Approaches to the Study of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe:
The Social Sciences. Chairman: Peter J. Potichnyj, McMaster University.

1. Professor Lenard Cohen, Simon Fraser University.
"Development of Political Science in Yugoslavia".
2. Professor Radoslav Selucky, Carleton University.
"Analysis From the Stance of Political Economy".
3. Professor David Lane, Cambridge University.
"The Contribution of Political Sociology".

Panel II: The Political Economy of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe:
Plan vs Market. Chairman: Simon McInnes, York University.

1. Professors Alan Brown, Zbigniew Fallenbuchl, Joe Licari, Egon
Neuberger, University of Windsor.
"The Impact of International Stagflation on Systemic and Policy
Changes in Eastern Europe: Theoretical Perspectives".
2. Professor Henryk Flakierski, York University.
"Economic Reforms in Poland: Political Developments".
3. Professor Oli Hawrylyshyn, Queen's University.
"Economics and Politics in Yugoslavia".

Panel III: Political Sociology in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe:
State and Society. Chairman: William McGrath, Dalhousie University.

1. Professor Alexander Simirenko, Pennsylvania State University.
"Sociology in the Soviet Union: The State of the Discipline".
2. Professor Karl-Eugen Wädekin, Justus-Liebig-Universität.
"The Interdependence of Economic Reform and Social Change in
Soviet and East European Agriculture".
3. Professor Franklyn Griffiths, University of Toronto.
"Soviet Revisionist Concepts of the American Capitalism".

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MAY 31 - JUNE 11 / VANCOUVER

Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, will take place in Vancouver from May 31 to June 11. A parallel conference of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be held at Jericho Beach, about ten minutes from downtown Vancouver. The parallel conference, called Habitat Forum, will be held from May 28 to June 11. It will devote the first few days to discussing the main themes of the UN conference: settlement policies and strategies; settlement planning; institutions and management; shelter; infrastructure and services and popular participation. Participants in the forum will be able to follow the proceedings of the UN conference on closed circuit television. Registration for Habitat Forum is free. Requests for registration and accommodation should be sent to: Sandra Marriage, Habitat Forum, P.O. Box 48360, Bentall Centre, VANCOUVER, B.C. V7X kL8.

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AUGUST 16 - 21 AOUT / EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND)

CONGRES DE L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE /
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

Voir l'aperçu du programme dans la livraison de novembre 1975 du Bulletin.

See the summary of the congress programme in the November 1975 issue of the Bulletin.

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OCTOBER 22 - 23 OCTOBRE / WOLFVILLE, N.S.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

First call for papers

Theme: "Modernization".

- Panels: (a) Political modernization and participation.
(b) Regulations and Intervention by the State.
(c) Leadership, legislatures and modernization.
(d) Political communication and modernization.
(e) Political theory and modernization.

The topic of "Modernization" was chosen in order to encourage the participation of as many social scientists as possible. This general theme is amenable to examination from national and cross-national perspective and we therefore solicit your participation.

For further information and proposal papers contact: Professor Marshall Wm. Conley, Conference Chairman, APPSA, Department of Political Science, Acadia University, WOLFVILLE, Nova Scotia. BOP 1X0.

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OCTOBER 14 - 16 OCTOBRE 1976 / DURHAM, North Carolina

REVOLUTION AND EVOLUTION: The Impact of the revolutionary experience of the United States compared with the development of Canada solely by evolution.

The Duke University Canadian Studies Center in association with the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States has arranged to hold an International Bicentennial Conference funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to compare and contrast impact of the revolutionary experience on the United States with Canada's development by a process of evolution.

For additional information, see the January issue of the Bulletin or write to the Director, Canadian Studies Center, 2101 Campus Drive, DURHAM, North Carolina, U.S.A. 27706.

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MESSAGES

Avis

Si vous êtes un politicologue de langue française et n'avez pas encore reçu un questionnaire portant sur vos intérêts en science politique, prière de communiquer le plus tôt possible avec François-Pierre Gingras, à l'adresse inscrite sur la couverture du Bulletin.

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Training in Survey Research

For the twenty-ninth consecutive year, the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan will hold a Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques from June 28, 1976 to August 20, 1976.

The Institute is designed to meet some of the educational and training needs of men and women engaged in business, government research and other statistical work, and also to meet the needs of graduate students and university instructors interested in quantitative research in the social sciences.

For further information concerning specific dates, courses, fees, housing, etc., please write Mrs. Helene Hitchcock, Administrative Manager, Office of the Director, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, Post Office Box 1248, ANN ARBOR, Michigan 48106, U.S.A.

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