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Association canadienne de science politique

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The State of the Discipline / L'état de la discipline

Les études supérieures / Graduate Programmes

The Practice of Political Science / La pratique de la science politique

Canada: L'avenir de la communauté / The Future of the Community

Canada-Latin America Forum / Le forum Canada-Amérique latine

De l'Irlande / From Ireland

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Association canadienne de science politique**

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LE MOT DU DIRECTEUR / FROM THE EDITOR

From my point of view, this issue starts very well the year 1992 of the *Bulletin*. We have very good papers from many colleagues plus additional useful information.

Our column on the State of the Discipline, written by Bob Segsworth and Mary Powell, deals this time with the field of Public Administration. Jane Jenson, for her part, has kindly accepted to write our column on Graduate Programmes at Carleton University.

Bob Young, avec la compétence qui le caractérise, a produit un texte fort intéressant pour la chronique sur l'avenir de la communauté canadienne. Enfin, Pierre-Gerlier Forest a gentiment accepté d'écrire la chronique sur la pratique de la science politique dans laquelle on retrouve un texte tout à fait original et corrosif à souhait. Un grand merci à tous ces collaborateurs de nos chroniques régulières.

In addition to our regular columns, this issue of the *Bulletin* includes papers by Edgar Dosman who presents the new Canada-Latin America Forum. Dick Johnston also presents the project on Federal Elections on which he and his colleagues have been working for sometime and Professor Michael Gallagher honors us by sending a paper dealing with the Irish Political Science Association. To all these contributors, a very sincere thanks.

Finalement, je voudrais encore souligner l'appui de Joan Pond et Vincent Lemieux ainsi que la collaboration toujours fort appréciée de **Marie-Pierre Ashby, Claude Goulet et Marie-France Kingsley** qui m'ont aidé à préparer ce numéro. Bonne lecture, et en terminant je voudrais souhaiter tout le succès possible à nos collègues de la SQSP qui viennent de lancer le nouveau Bulletin de la Société.

Gordon Mace

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LE MOT DU PRÉSIDENT / FROM THE PRESIDENT

par Vincent Lemieux

Des professeurs et étudiants en science politique ont profité, dans le passé, du programme de stages à Essex visant à améliorer leurs compétences en méthodes quantitatives. Ce programme a dû être abandonné, malheureusement, lorsque le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada a décidé de ne plus le subventionner. Je tiens à remercier Richard Johnston, Réjean Landry et Charlotte Yates, les membres du comité d'évaluation, ainsi que le président sortant, Peter Russell. Ils se sont dévoués jusqu'à la fin pour assurer le bon fonctionnement du programme.

À sa dernière réunion, le Bureau de direction a décidé de lancer un nouveau programme, tel que des professeurs et étudiants pourraient faire un stage non seulement en Grande-Bretagne mais aussi aux États-Unis ou encore en France, dans des universités reconnues pour la qualité et la formation qu'elles donnent en méthodes quantitatives. Doug Williams, qui est membre du Bureau de direction, a accepté de présider le comité qui cherchera à obtenir du financement pour ce nouveau programme. André Blais et Larry LeDuc l'assisteront dans cette tâche. Comment ne pas espérer, avec un tel comité, qu'un nouveau programme de stages en méthodes quantitatives voie le jour bientôt.

Tom Flanagan was the first President of our Trust Fund. Last summer's Kingston setting for our Annual Meeting prompted me to say that he could, if he liked, assume the title of «Founding Father» of the Fund which he had worked so diligently to establish! Tom's successor as President of the Trust Fund is Fred Fletcher who has generously agreed to work to develop it over the next three years. I take advantage of this announcement to urge all members of the Association to subscribe to the Trust. We are looking forward to outside contributions but, in order for the Fund to become an institution with which each of us can identify, it is crucial that as many as possible of us contribute to it, no matter how small the amount. Wasn't it Réal Caouette who said that real attachment to a cause involves giving money without taking any?

Speaking of money, the Board of Directors studied the Association's financial situation. It has been better! For several years our focus has been on taking the initiatives and structuring the committees to enable us to provide better and better service to our members. All of this new activity has brought with it new expenses. And these have been not only questions of the costs of additional translation and of postage but also of increased activity at the Secretariat to the point where Joan, Michelle and Inge are joining us as volunteers

contributing time for which we do not pay them. Given that it is exceedingly difficult to increase our revenues in any significant degree, the main efforts of the Executive and of the Board of Directors will, over the next period, focus on finding ways to contain expenses while taking care to protect the services that are important to our membership.

Il n'y aura plus de numéro de février du *Bulletin* au cours des trois prochaines années. Deux numéros seulement seront publiés, l'un au printemps et l'autre à l'automne. Connaissant les talents du directeur Gordon Mace, qui est d'accord avec cette mesure d'économie, nous sommes convaincus qu'il réussira à fournir, en deux numéros par année, la qualité sinon la quantité d'information qu'il a jusqu'à maintenant fournie en trois numéros.

THE STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE / L'ÉTAT DE LA DISCIPLINE

STATE OF THE ART: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Bob Segsworth and Mary Powell
Laurentian University

Reading the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* during the past five years, one might draw several conclusions regarding the state of public administration as a field of academic interest in this country. One impression is that relatively little research is being conducted because so little appears in the *Journal*. A second conclusion would be that the published research, at least, reflects a Canadian parochialism since very few articles deal with international developments in public administration or provide comparative treatments of the subject. Thirdly, Canadian interest in the subject appears to centre around older, traditional topics such as ministerial responsibility and minister-civil servant relationships. Finally, on the basis of the articles published in the *Journal*, one might draw the conclusion that Canada is virtually a unitary state and/or that provincial and municipal administration must be rather trivial in comparison to the national public sector.

Are these impressionistic conclusions valid?

1. Relatively little research?

Despite Pross' (1990) recent disclaimer about the rather small size of the public administration academic community, research in public administration is healthy and growing in Canada. The last *Supplement* (1990) of the *Canadian Public Administration Bibliography* contains more than 4,900 books, articles, cases and simulations which were published during the

1983-1985 period. Almost 1,700 of these treated topics which comprise the traditional core of the discipline as defined by the first eleven major subject headings of the *Bibliography. Supplement 3*, (1980) which covered the period from 1976 - 1978, contained less than 1,900 entries. Of these, some 534 were included under the "traditional core" subject headings.

This productivity is reflected in the creation of newer journals such as the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation* and *Canadian Public Policy* and magazines such as *Policy Options* and *Public Sector Management*. In at least one case, *Optimum*, a significant change in the editorial policy of this important public administration journal has taken place. These more recent and revised publications provide a significantly expanded source of material on public administration than was the case a decade or two ago. The reality is that academics and practitioners are engaged in research and publication in a far more significant manner than the volume of articles included in recent issues of the *Journal* would suggest.

2. Little interest in comparative or international issues?

On the whole, this conclusion seems accurate. One finds very few articles or books which devote themselves to discussions of public administration in other countries and even fewer studies which attempt to compare Canadian practices and laws with those of other states in any systematic fashion. A rather cursory review of the articles published in *Optimum*, *Canadian Public Administration* and *The Canadian Journal of Political Science* over the past five years indicates only seven articles which concentrated on international developments in public administration. Approximately the same number of studies provide a comparative perspective. The recent 1991 issue of *Optimum* which contained articles devoted to the equivalent of special operating agencies in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States is an exception to this rule. One can only hope that it is a harbinger of more to come.

In a federal state it is surprising that there are so few comparative treatments of administrative practices and developments between the provinces and between provincial and federal jurisdictions. Commonly, the few studies of this type in recent years have been examinations of budgeting and financial management practices.

In terms of course offerings in public administration, the undergraduate curriculum appears to offer little in either international or comparative public administration.¹ Only two entries in the 1991 *Compendium of*

Outlines of Public Administration Courses address these topics: the Université de Moncton's Administration publique comparée, and the University of Regina's course in the administration of international organizations.

3. Research focuses on older, traditional topics?

Much of what is written *does* reflect long-standing, traditional issues of concern in public administration. The excellent administrative history of Quebec by Iain Gow (1986) follows a tradition of scholarship exemplified over the years by Professor J. E. Hodgetts. Sharon Sutherland's (1991) work on the complex relationships between public servants, Parliament and the cabinet, Peter Aucoin and Herman Bakvis' (1988) analysis of the administrative and political forces which create the "centralization - decentralization conundrum" and Donald Savoie's (1990) concerns about expenditure management systems and the inherently incrementalist nature of budgeting in Canada are other fine examples in the contemporary literature. From the IPAC case program, the most popular case by far is Douglas Hartle's (1977) "Draft Memorandum to Cabinet," an excellent illustration of the continuing interest in fundamental political/administrative questions.

Increasingly, however, such topics are now less dominant as management theory, largely drawn from the U.S., has become central to much of the public administration literature in Canada. This change reflects the powerful management orientation which is prevalent throughout the public sector. Improved management productivity systems, leadership, organizational change, motivation, service-oriented management, TQM, MIS, VFM, IMAA, SMAs and SOAs and the rest of the alphabet soup of North American management "theory" and practice have become the foci of a large percentage of the publications in the academic journals and elsewhere. During the 1986 - 1991 period, for example, discussions, descriptions, analyses and applications of management theory comprised more than one-third of the articles published in the three journals surveyed. Not surprisingly, this emphasis is most evident in *Optimum*, a journal which concentrates on public sector management issues. It is also a trend that is obvious to those who have read *Canadian Public Administration* over the past decade.

This management orientation is also reflected in the national seminars of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada over the past several years and in a

canadienne des programmes en administration publique. His 1991 *Compendium of Outlines of Public Administration Courses* contains course outlines collected from 17 Canadian universities from University of Victoria to Memorial University of Newfoundland.

¹ The data we have used were prepared by David Seigel, President of the Canadian Association of Programs of Public Administration/Association

