



The Canadian Political Science Association

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Association canadienne de science politique

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

Graduate Programmes / Les programmes gradués

La recherche / Research in Political Science

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

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

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Association canadienne de science politique**

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LE MOT DU DIRECTEUR / EDITOR'S CORNER

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we continue the presentation of our regular columns. The column on the State of the Discipline, written by our colleagues Wallace Clement and Glen Williams of Carleton, deals with the state of political economy studies in Canada. In the column on Graduate Programmes, Ken McRoberts provides an overview of the programmes at York University. Dans la chronique consacrée à la recherche, Philippe Faucher, de l'Université de Montréal, a bien voulu accepter de nous présenter quelques éléments d'information concernant le CREDIT. Enfin, Caroline Andrew a accepté d'écrire un texte sur la place des femmes dans la science politique canadienne dans le cadre de la chronique sur la pratique de la science politique. I would like to express to these colleagues my most sincere appreciation for their contributions to the Bulletin.

It is a fact well-known in many circles outside Canada that the CPSA ranks among the best of the world scientific associations. Many of our colleagues are respected scholars on a world basis and some are leading researchers in their field of studies. In Canada, we, as a community, have offered an image of thorough analysis, moderation and open-mindedness when it came to discussing the problems affecting the country. Il est par conséquent tout à fait approprié que nous introduisions, avec ce numéro du Bulletin, une nouvelle chronique portant sur l'avenir du Canada. Cette nouvelle chronique sera un lieu d'échange et de réflexion sur les orientations futures du pays compte tenu des tendances que l'on voit pointer sur le plan des relations fédérales-provinciales, des relations entre les régions et le centre du pays, des rapports hommes-femmes et de la question amérindienne

ainsi que dans des domaines tels la culture, l'environnement, les rapports inter-ethniques et la place du Canada dans le système mondial.

We will ask some of our colleagues from different parts of the country, from different genders and from different ideological points of view to share with us their vision of the future of the Canadian community at the start of the new century. For this occasion, we invite and will publish in future issues of the *Bulletin* comments, replies or opposing points of view from our readers who would like to react to the papers presented here. The only conditions for access to the *Bulletin* in this instance will be moderation, respect and dignity which, as said earlier, have always characterized our debates. I am very happy and I appreciate very much that David Elkins has accepted to write the first paper for this column. Let's hope that this new column will generate fruitful discussion and a high level of exchange.

In this issue, we have also a contribution from our colleague Ron Manzer to whom I would like to express my appreciation. I take this opportunity to invite our colleagues who would like to follow Ron's example to submit short papers on various topics of interest for publication in the *Bulletin*.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier Peter Russell et Joan Pond pour leur encouragement constant ainsi que les collaborateurs à ce numéro qui ont accepté avec diligence d'écrire pour le *Bulletin*. Je voudrais également exprimer ma reconnaissance à Marie-Pierre Ashby, Erick Duchesne et Claude Goulet qui m'ont aidé à préparer ce numéro du *Bulletin*.

Gordon Mace

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT /
LE MOT DU PRESIDENT**

Peter H. Russell

What ever happened to the 1990's? Wasn't this supposed to be the decade when employment prospects for political science Ph.D's (and indeed for young scholars in all disciplines) would flourish in Canada? Wasn't this the time when faculty hired in the boom years of the 1960's would begin to retire - in large number - opening up opportunities for a new generation of scholars?

Well, perhaps that was the expectation, but there is at least impressionistic evidence to suggest that these wonderful times may not be arriving as automatically as it was thought they would. Last year at the annual meeting of Department Heads in Montreal, only ten to twelve new tenure positions were reported - and a number of these were not firm. In my own Department alone we have graduated ten new political science Ph.D.'s over the past year. Sure, there are lots of short term sessional positions available. While these are often a life-line to scholars endeavouring to continue their participation in the academic world, they do not provide a sound basis on which to build a productive scholarly career.

These considerations have moved the CPSA Board to launch a fact-finding inquiry into the job market situation for our discipline in Canada. We plan to look at both the supply of new Ph.D.'s in political science and the likely demand for their services by Universities and Colleges. Board members Margaret Little and Richard Vernon are carrying out this survey. Margaret will be collecting data on political science Ph.D.'s now in program and recently graduated, while Richard collects information from the Departments on employment prospects. I urge you to give Margaret and Richard your full co-operation in their important work.

If the results of the fact finding suggest that there looks to be a serious short-fall in employment prospects for new members of our discipline, the Association will have to decide what further action it wishes to take. Personally, I hope the Association will be pro-active rather than reactive, and in the direction of trying to expand employment opportunities rather than reducing graduate enrolments.

One measure of the influence our Association can bring to bear on behalf of political scientists is the

strength of our membership. With just over 60% of the faculty in Canadian political science departments belonging to CPSA, we clearly have some way to go. Through a membership drive this year, the Board hopes to raise the participation rate of university and college faculty to 75%. Our recruitment efforts should not be confined to university faculty. There is considerable scope for increasing the participation in CPSA of graduate students and political scientists working for government.

The subsidies scholarly associations receive from SSHRC are being phased out. Last year the Board looked carefully at alternative ways of increasing operating revenues. The Board examined many possibilities but concluded that none have as much potential as increasing the membership. So those of us who are CPSA members should do what we can to induce those of our colleagues who are not members to share the burden of having an effective organization representing our discipline's interests in Canada. Incidentally, if you are wondering who belongs and who does not, the current membership consists of those who are indeed in the main body of our Directory.

One activity which our Association arranges annually is the meeting of Heads of Departments to review the current state of the discipline. This year we are looking forward to welcoming the Heads in Toronto on February 8 and 9. Besides the usual exchange of information about personnel, curriculum and administrative matters, one session will be devoted to exploring the implications of Ontario's election of its first democratic socialist (or social democratic?) government. We hope as many Heads possible will attend.

As you know, the Association's best hope for fiscal security in the long term is the CPSA Trust Fund. Under the leadership of Tom Flanagan the Fund has continued to grow. Last year it had over 100 contributors. Again this year our membership renewal notice will provide an opportunity to contribute to the Trust Fund. I hope the membership will respond even more generously than last year. At this stage in the development of the Fund the amount that each of us can give is less important than the number of us who contribute. Tom Flanagan and his colleague trustees are considering alternative ways of contributing to the trust including various forms of estate planning. While this may seem a somewhat ghoulish idea, colleagues of my own generation who have accepted the reality of their own mortality may not be disinclined to give some thought to securing the Association's immortality.

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

THE NEW CANADIAN POLITICAL
ECONOMY: HEGEMON OR PARTNER?

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Leslie Pal has written in a recent insightful review that practitioners of the new Canadian Political Economy (CPE) are engaged in the "hegemonic project defining CPE as a coherent field superior to, and more fruitful than its competitors".¹ Soldiers in mainstream disciplinary fields like political science can relax: the CPE hordes are not about to assault your ramparts! In fact, during the past two decades of the current CPE wave, its practitioners have been among the most active contributors both to university disciplines like political science and to the ever expanding inventory of political economy publications. Co-existence and integration of research agendas has usually been the case. The interdisciplinary which is at the core of CPE has, in fact, reinforced and enriched the disciplinary bases it spans rather than threatening them.

Canadian political economy has enjoyed two periods of intense intellectual creativity.² The first of these, from the 1920s through the 1950s, was dominated by a liberal or neo-liberal paradigm. It included, indeed was in some ways bounded by, the work of the Canadian intellectual colossus Harold Innis.³ The most recent "revival", dating from the early 1970s, took its inspiration from the marxist or

neo-marxist paradigm. It was presaged by the earlier work of C.B. Macpherson, H. Clare Pentland, and Mel Watkins.⁴ We may now be at the beginning of a third political economy era. The current juncture within CPE is one of reflection, challenge and renewal, incorporating a much wider range of issues and views than evident in the two classic periods.

What are the links between the major periods? The Innis tradition has not always been well applied or even well understood within the new CPE. Some misappropriated it to legitimize the application of Latin American dependency models to Canada, while others rejected it as "commodity fetishism".⁵ Many simply ignored it. Yet, there are important, and quite real, continuities between the "old" and the "new" CPE. Most obviously, both projects rejected the dominant neo-classical orthodoxy of twentieth century professional economics. More fundamentally, they broadly share roughly comparable research methods and strategies.

Both the early and contemporary CPE most typically concentrated on substantive issues relating to processes of social change and societal transformation. Empirical investigation of specific problems has channelled research based on the many distinctive characteristics of the Canadian social formation. The exceptional circumstances of Canada being a uniquely porous strata in the international political economy has demanded that any issue be examined simultaneously on a number of linked terrains: the socio-cultural, the political, and the economic. Indeed, the CPE tradition has been predicated on covering all these terrains for any research subjects of consequence. Consider, for example, the way that social actors are developed in a political and economic context in W. Clement's *Continental Corporate Power*, or state policy-making is married to economy and society in M. Clark-Jones' *A Staple State*, or an economic quandary, Canada's "arrested" industrialization, is perceived and acted upon by political

1 Leslie Pal, "Political Economy as a Hegemonic Project", *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, XXII:4 (December 1989), p. 828.

2 We survey in this article primarily the political economy of English-speaking Canada. For an examination of the somewhat independent trajectory of Quebec political economy analysis, see W. Coleman, "The Political Economy of Quebec", in *The New Canadian Political Economy*, W. Clement and G. Williams, eds, (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989.)

3 For an introduction to his work, see his *Essays in Canadian Economic History*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1956.)

4 C.B. Macpherson, *Democracy in Alberta: Social Credit and the Party System*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1953.); H. Clare Pentland, *Labour and Capital in Canada*, ed. P. Phillips, (Toronto: James Lorimer, 1981.); and, Canada, Privy Council Office, *Foreign Ownership and Canadian Industry* (The Watkins Report), (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1968.)

5 See, for example, D. Drache, "Harold Innis and Canadian Capitalist Development", *Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory*, Winter/Spring 1982; and, D. McNally, "Staple Theory as Commodity Fetishism: Marx, Innis and Canadian Political Economy", *Studies in Political Economy*, Autumn 1981.

