



The Canadian Political Science Association

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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

Research in Political Science / La recherche

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

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

Rapport sur le marché de l'emploi / Report on Job Opportunities

Political Studies in New Zealand / La science politique en Nouvelle-Zélande

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LE MOT DU DIRECTEUR / FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue of the *Bulletin* we start our new publication schedule. From now on, the Fall issue of the *Bulletin* should get to you in October instead of December. Unfortunately, we are a little bit late this time because of the postal strike.

In this issue, the paper on the State of the Discipline was done by Peter Emberley of Carleton. Tom Keating wrote the presentation on the graduate programmes in political science at the University of Alberta. For his part, David Haglund summarizes the activities of the Center for International Relations at Queen's University.

You will also find in this *Bulletin* a new column listing the contents of major Canadian political science journals. We hope that this information will be useful to all of you and we are prepared to make appropriate changes if necessary.

Le professeur Ross Rudolph nous présente une réflexion sur l'enseignement de la science politique dans la chronique sur la pratique de la science politique. Philippe Doucet, pour sa part, nous offre un point de vue sur l'avenir du Canada. Grand merci à

tous ces collaborateurs de nos chroniques régulières ainsi qu'aux responsables de départements qui nous transmettent de plus en plus régulièrement les informations appropriées concernant leurs activités départementales.

In addition to our regular columns, this issue of the *Bulletin* contains two special articles. Continuing our process of exchange with the APSA Newsletter, we reproduce an article by Professor G.A. Wood on the state of political science in New Zealand. Then, we include an important report on job opportunities for doctorate students signed by Peter Russell, Richard Vernon and Margaret Little. We would like to express to all of them our very sincere appreciation.

Finalemment, j'aimerais remercier Les Macdonald pour la collaboration du CRSH ainsi que Joan Pond et Vincent Lemieux pour leur appui constant. Merci également à **Marie-Pierre Ashby** pour un travail toujours excellent de préparation matérielle du *Bulletin* ainsi qu'à **Claude Goulet et Marie-France Kingsley** qui ont gentiment accepté de m'aider à colliger les informations pour ce numéro.

Gordon Mace

CONTENTS / SOMMAIRE

Le mot du président / From the President	p. 2
The State of the Discipline / L'état de la discipline	
Peter C. Emberley	p. 2
Les études supérieures / Graduate Programmes	
Thomas Keating	p. 7
Research in Political Science / La recherche	
David Haglund	p. 8
La pratique de la science politique / The Practice of Political Science	
Ross Rudolph	p. 13
Canada: The Future of the Community / L'avenir de la communauté	
Philippe Doucet	p. 17
Rapport sur le marché de l'emploi / Report on Job Opportunities	
Peter H. Russell, Richard A. Vernon, Margaret Little	p. 20
From New Zealand / De la Nouvelle-Zélande	
G.A. Wood	p. 27
Dans les départements / Around the Departments	p. 36
Job Opportunities / Offres d'emploi	p. 38
Rencontres scientifiques / Scientific meetings	p. 41
From SSHRCC / Du CRSH	
Research Grants / Subventions de recherche	p. 44
Annonces diverses / Announcements	p. 47
The Federation / La Fédération	p. 62
Dans les revues / In the Journals	p. 65
Recent Theses / Thèses déposées récemment	p. 69
Publications récentes / Recent publications	p. 71

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

par Vincent Lemieux

At the beginning of June, in Kingston, the Association's Board of Directors took the decision to establish a prize to honour the memory of Don Smiley. This decision flowed from the recommendation of the Research Communications Committee, chaired by Herman Bakvis, which had been asked to study the matter. You will find the terms of the prize outlined elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Don Smiley has been, over many long years, one of the eminent representatives of our discipline and his active interest in our community continued right up to the end of his life. Some few weeks before his death, I received from him a text, in his own hand, which he had written for inclusion in a work in honour of one of our colleagues in Québec. Because his interests were so broad-ranging, we wished to establish a prize in his honour that would reflect that spirit: so that books entered into competition could deal with the internal or external politics of government - including its administration - and with the whole of Canada, as well as with any of its provinces, its cities or its regions.

The Smiley Prize will be awarded for the first time at Charlottetown. We see this as the beginning of a long tradition in which, every two years, the works so-crowned will be honoured in lasting memory of Don.

Conrad Winn will complete in 1992 his second term as Director of our Parliamentary Internship Programme in Ottawa. We will have, at Charlottetown, the occasion to recognize in a public way the extraordinary contribution that he has made as the head of a programme which is certainly one of the Association's most important. It is also one of its most demanding. Conrad has had both to raise the monies to finance the programme and to be responsible for the work of the interns. The Executive and Board of Directors of the Association have come to the conclusion that, for the future, it would be better to divide these tasks between two persons, one of whom would be responsible for fundraising and the other for the academic experience of the interns.

I am happy to announce that Richard Price, of the University of Windsor, and François Houle of the University of Ottawa, have accepted respective appointment to these two posts, the appointments effective mid-1992. They will, in fact, begin this Fall, under Conrad's tutelage, their initiation into Programme life.

The second edition of the *Directory*, under the editorship of David Smith of the University of Saskatchewan, is ready to go to press. All of us who

have used it to establish contacts with colleagues know what a significant tool it is. I wish to thank David, again, for his important work, one which has contributed so significantly to enhancing networking in our community of researchers.

Un autre outil précieux est maintenant disponible aux plus jeunes d'entre nous, qui se cherchent de l'emploi après (ou pendant...) des études de baccalauréat, de maîtrise ou de doctorat. Il s'agit de la brochure préparée par Leslie Pal sur les possibilités d'emploi qui s'offrent aux diplômés de science politique.

La brochure est disponible en français ou en anglais. On peut se la procurer en s'adressant à son directeur de département, ou encore par le système de messagerie électronique POLCAN.

Les directeurs de département se réuniront à l'Université Laval le 31 janvier et le 1er février 1992. Nous serons alors au début d'une année où il y aura tout probablement référendum ou élection au Québec. Le directeur du département, Gilles Breton, et moi avons l'intention d'organiser au moins une séance où certains collègues ou encore des porte-parole des deux principaux partis du Québec, le Parti libéral et le Parti québécois, exposeront leurs vues à cet égard. Il y aura aussi, bien sûr, quelques autres séances consacrées aux affaires de la discipline.

En terminant je voudrais féliciter trois de nos collègues qui occuperont bientôt des postes importants dans des associations qui, chacune à sa façon, sont proches de la nôtre. Maureen Covell a été élue membre de l'exécutif de l'Association internationale de science politique. John Meisel est président désigné de la Société royale du Canada, et Louise Quesnel, présidente désignée de la Fédération canadienne des sciences sociales. Je leur souhaite bonne chance dans leurs nouvelles fonctions, et je suis convaincu que durant leur «règne» ils continueront de démontrer qu'il y a des politologues aussi habiles à étudier les dirigeants politiques qu'à jouer eux-mêmes des rôles de dirigeants, quand ils sont appelés à le faire.

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

**WHERE IS POLITICAL THEORY ?
- AN OVERVIEW -**

Peter C. Emberley
Carleton University

A caveat: when the editors of the Bulletin have asked a spokesperson in comparative politics or international political economy to give an account of the "state of

the discipline," I assume that as difficult as the task of summary was, that such a person did not doubt she or he could describe a form of inquiry and its correlative political objects. There may be essentially contestable concepts, or rival theories, or alternate methodologies. But, I presume, something has been taken as a given: there is a core agreed upon, even where there is dispute in interpretation, be it events, institutions, or social historical processes. The branches differ, but the root is the same.

Political theory seems to be different. It is not a matter here of certain evident phenomena, as if these "objects" of inquiry have a degree of stability or unity, as if it is merely a question of elaborating more effective methods. There is little agreement about the starting point of political theory. Are there - one or another asks - even ideas, or facts, or experiences, or power, or history, or time, or individuals, or structures? Nor is it that anyone agrees on the questioning being conducting the inquiry: is it a psyche, a participating consciousness, an autonomous ego, a historical sensorium? The dispute about the nature of political theory and its proper topics seems to be root and branch. It goes to the core of what one takes the political to be, of what one assumes human intellection to aim at, indeed (to be somewhat grandiose) of what one takes human existence itself to be.

Rivals in disputes in other fields may denounce their colleagues as blind, lacking in skills, stupid. But disagreement between theorists comes to imply judgements about ways of life, about states of souls, about responsibility, and about justice. It departs from assessments of mere cognitive ability. Conflicts are bitter and ugly.

Thus, to presume to say what political theory is, or its current state, is presumptuous. No field is as self-conscious about the nature of interpretation and the tentative character of all predication. As soon as one attempts to say "this is what political theory is," or "this is what political theorists are doing," or "this is where political theory is going" some in our rank will deny that the definition or activity is, in fact, political theory. Some will wish to differentiate "political theory," "political thought," or "political philosophy," and "political analysis," but in so doing they are saying that the so-called primary facts that another considers important are, actually, epiphenomenal (read, irrelevant), or unanswerable, or vehicles of a hidden ideological agenda.

I have tried to avoid claiming that certain initiatives are not political theory. I presupposed that, under the most intensive scrutiny, all versions of "political theory" have an intelligible basis, derived from some usually

unarticulated ontological or metaphysical perspective. Where different schools have chosen practice over theory, or denied the distinction; or claimed that all is perspective; or, settled for the "underlabourer's" role of conceptual clarification; or turned to sociology, psychology, theology, or history, I have not assumed that they have thereby placed themselves outside the pale of political theory. Can I judge that those who have bracketed the question of the possibility of truth, or those who have intimations of a transcendent perfection, or those who are intellectuals engagés, are not "theorists" - are mere ideologues, nihilists, relativists, scholars, partisans, or agitators?

One thing that can be said with certainty is that political theory has undergone an enormous revival in the past twenty years. Indeed, it could be argued that insofar as there is a fundamental re-orientation occurring within all of the sub-fields of political science, it is in great part a result of political theory's new status. When one hears talk of "inter-paradigm debates," or "a discourse of ethnicity," or considers the vitality of feminist re-assessments and the diffusion of focus within the "new political economy," through these radiates the new robustness of a thinking whose source is precisely political theory's continuous questioning and self-questioning. Where a Strauss or a Voegelin, a Marcuse or an Adorno, could despair of the political theory they encountered in North America, recognizing that its shallow historicism simply conformed to and rationalized the equally bland behaviouralism gripping the social sciences as a whole, and moreover thereby collaborated with the dominance of certain American political interests, now it is as if a Copernican revolution has occurred. Please allow me the hyperbole: political theory can once again take pride in being the queen of the sciences, while other inquiries revolve around it.

Why has this resurgence occurred? No simple explanation is available. Perhaps the generation of political refugees from Nazi Germany arrived at an opportune moment where there seemed to be a moral and spiritual vacuum needing to be filled. They were persuasive, classically-trained, and breathed a strange and exotic new air of existentialism, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis. Or, maybe continental European philosophy, having finally become available to English-speaking readers, and its obvious links to known-philosophers like Wittgenstein having made it acceptable, was suddenly seen in its truly revolutionary potential and revolution was what was desired. This was a language of wide-sweeping theorization - philosophies of history, existence, consciousness. Or, maybe the significance of what had been occurring for

