

Minutes from the meeting of the Standing Group on Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective, Montreal, August 28, 2.00-3.30 pm, 2015, Université de Montréal, Jean Brillant room B3290.

The meeting was announced in the June Newsletter of the standing group which also contained a preliminary agenda. The members of the standing group were asked to come up with additional issues for the meeting, but no such issues were proposed within the deadline.

The meeting was also listed in the conference catalogue on p. 24 ("Meeting schedule").

The meeting was chaired by Elisabeth Gidengil.

One of the conveners (until the meeting), Oddbjørn Knutsen, outlined most of the points on the basis of PowerPoint slides.

16 scholars attended the meeting.

1. The establishment of the SG

The establishment of the standing group in 2007-09 was briefly outlined

2. Leadership/conveners 2007 (2009)-2015

The conveners and steering group were mentioned. The election took place during the general conference in Potsdam in 2009.

3. Review of activities 2007 (2009)-2015

The following activities were outlined:

a) An overview of sections (titles, section chairs and the number of panels) at the General Conferences that the conveners had initiated and supported.

It was underscored that the work with section proposals is a main activity for the standing group leadership.

b) An overview of workshop proposals for the Joint Sessions of Workshops that had been supported by the standing group and accepted by ECPR.

Overviews of sections and workshops are available in greater details on the website of the standing group.

c) PhD courses within public opinion and voting behaviour that had been initiated and supported.

These are:

2011-2013 courses within the framework of the Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies,

2015 the Leuven-Montréal Winter School on Elections and Voting Behaviour

d) Newsletters

3-5 Newsletters have been sent to the members each year; some of them with many points and different types of information.

e) A bibliographic database 2009-2012

This database contains overview of around 1350 journal articles on public opinion and voting behaviour published between January 2009 and the summer 2012 in central political science journals. Gabor Toka has been responsible for this.

f) The website and membership development

Ioannis Andreadis outlined main points regarding the website and also regarding membership development.

In 2014 the website had nearly 28.000 unique visitors. In the end of 2011 the standing group had 319 members. This has gradually increased to 407 at the end of 2014.

g) Other activities

The conveners have also been asked to support applications for Graduate Student Conferences and Research Sessions, and these applications have been supported if they have been good and within the field.

4. The Framework for standing groups and research networks

The Framework was established in 2014 after considerable debate between the conveners of the Standing groups and the ECPR executive committee.

The Framework was announced to the members of the standing group by a link in the February 2015 Newsletter.

Main points in the Framework were outlined on the meeting on the basis of slides.

5. Discussion and vote on the Constitution proposal for the Standing Group

The constitution proposal was announced both in the February and June Newsletters 2015. The proposal was to a large extent based on the Framework and the default constitution that was proposed by ECPR as an appendix to the Framework, but it deviates somewhat when it comes to the election of the steering committee.

The various points in the constitution proposal were outlined one by one. There were no suggestions for changes, and the proposal was unanimously accepted.

6. Election of a new Steering Committee

An election committee comprising Susan Banducci, André Blais, Zsolt Enyedi and Mark Franklin had - in accordance with the Constitution proposal - come up with the following proposal for a new steering committee:

General election and voting behaviour

Hanna Wass

Department of Political and Economic Studies, Helsinki

European elections (to the European Parliament)

Marina Costa Lobo

Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Lisbon

Political attitudes and values (public opinion)

Kees Aarts

Faculty of Behavioural, Management & Social Sciences, Department of Public Administration, University of Twente

No other proposals had been forwarded within the deadline (July 10) and the steering committee was then elected.

7. Ideas of additional activities

This point was briefly discussed but no additional activities were decided upon.