

GREEK
POLITICS



SPECIALIST
GROUP

GPSG NEWSLETTER #14

OCTOBER 2008

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www.gpsg.org.uk

Dear Members,

Welcome to the **14th Newsletter** of the **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)**. This comes at a crucial point in the life of the GPSG as we are celebrating the launch of our own, brand new website at <http://www.gpsg.org.uk>

Our site encapsulates and incorporates all aspects of our work so far:

- The site gives you **free and easy access to the full text** of more than 30 academic papers presented at the Group's panels at the PSA annual conferences from 2005 onwards.
- It features a series of **downloadable short articles and opinion pieces** on current affairs, as well as **thematic bibliographies** on a range of topics.
- You can access the site to get all the latest information on our **upcoming events**, conferences and activities, such as the January 2009 conference on EU enlargement and the 2009 Manchester panels.
- We have compiled (and will continue to develop) a **comprehensive list of links** to the websites of institutes and organisations that relate to the study of Greek society, government and politics.
- Our website also often features **external links to major events**, exhibitions and conferences, such as the new exhibition "Byzantium 330 – 1453" jointly organised by the Royal Academy of Arts in London and the Benaki Museum in Athens.
- Last but not least, the website provides you with an easy way to **register your details online** and pay for your £5 **annual membership fee**.

We are hoping to make the website a focal point of our activities and, through that, make the Greek Politics Specialist Group a key link between the UK and Greek communities. **Your contributions**, ideas and comments are always welcome and crucial to the development of our agenda.

In this edition of the newsletter you can find all the latest about the GPSG's work and our members' activities, a selection of the most important conference Calls for Papers, as well as two articles on the EU's structural funds and the Common Assessment Framework.

The **Greek Politics Specialist Group (GPSG)** of the UK's Political Studies Association (PSA) was founded in 2004.

It is one of the largest and most active groups of the PSA and a leading, international network of scholars and researchers of Greek society, government and politics.

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59th Political Studies Association Annual Conference

Challenges for Democracy in a Global Era

7 – 9 April 2009, Manchester



Many thanks to everyone who sent in a paper proposal for the PSA conference. The GPSG has submitted two panel proposals. All proposals are now under review by the conference's academic convenors and applicants will be notified by December, when the provisional conference programme will be published.

“The Challenge of Reform in Greece, 1974 – 2009: Assessments and Prospects”

8 – 10 May 2009, Yale University, USA

5 – 7 June 2009, Gennadius Library, Athens, Greece

The GPSG has proposed two panels for the first part of the Yale conference. Thank you to those of you who responded to our call for papers. All applicants will be notified shortly about the outcome of our proposals.



“The Changing Constellation of the Enlarging EU”

Joint Conference of the French Politics and Policy, German Politics, Greek Politics, and Italian Politics Specialist Groups

23 January 2009, Durham University

The GPSG will be joining three other specialist groups for a one-day conference on EU enlargement. The conference is hosted by the University of Durham and the date has been confirmed as January 23rd, 2009.

The PSA has awarded the four specialist groups with a grant of £1,320 that will cover the delegates' accommodation costs. The four specialist groups will also contribute to the event's budget so as to cover part of the presenters' travel expenses.



Members' Activities

- ✚ **Dr. Chrisanthos Tassis** successfully completed his Ph.D. at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His thesis is entitled: "PASOK 1974-1996: The building of a hegemonic political party".



- ✚ **Dr. Stella Ladi** presented a paper on Institutional Renewal and Good Governance in the Organisation for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) at the 104th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association that took place in Boston, MA in August. She was sponsored by both the PSA and APSA. In October, she was invited in Sofia by the European Parliament to present the findings of the same study at a meeting for the Stability and Security in the Black Sea Region.



- ✚ **Roman Gerodimos** won one of Bournemouth University's inaugural Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. His nomination was entitled "Supporting Independent Learning: A Dissertation Workbook for Level H Media Students".



Recent Publications

Gerodimos R. (2008), "Mobilising Young Citizens in the UK: A content analysis of youth and issue websites", *Information, Communication & Society*, 11: 7, 964 – 988

Lamprinakou C. (2008), "The Party Evolution Model: An Integrated Approach of Party Organisation and Political Communication", *Politics*, 28, no 2, pp. 103-111

Yannas P. (2008), "Political Marketing and Democracy: A Plea for Cross-Fertilization", *Journal of Political Marketing*, 7 (3-4), 205-216

Yannas P., G. Lappas and S. Chatzopoulos (2008), "Parliamentary Candidates Running on the Web for the 2004 Greek National Elections", *Journal of Political Marketing*, 7(3-4), 256-277

Yannas P. (ed. & preface) in J. A. Hendrix (2008), *Public Relations Cases*, 5th Ed., Athens: Ion Publications, Athens

Upcoming Conferences & Events

WebSci'09: Society On-Line
Athens, Greece
18 – 20 March 2009
<http://www.websci09.org/>



Web Science focuses on understanding, designing and developing the technologies and applications that make up the World Wide Web. But the WWW does not exist without the participation of people and organizations. Now that a significant proportion of everyday life is spent on-line in many countries, it makes sense for the **first Web Science conference organised by the Web Science Research Initiative (WSRI) and the Foundation of the Hellenic World (FHW) to be dedicated to the presentation of research into society on the Web.**

Deadline for paper proposals: 31 October 2009

How do people and organisations behave on-line – what motivates them to shop, date, make friends, learn, participate in political life or manage their health or tax on-line? Which Web-based designs will they trust? To which on-line agents will they delegate? How can the dark side of the Web – such as cybercrime, pornography and terrorist networks – be both understood and held in check without compromising the experience of others? What are the effects of varying characteristics of Web-based technologies – such as security, privacy, network structure, the linking of data – on on-line behaviour, both criminal and non-criminal? And how can the design of the Web of the future ensure that a system on which – as Tim Berners-Lee put it – democracy and commerce depends remains 'stable and pro-human'? Such a challenge requires understanding of both human behaviour and technological design. So the science – including the social science – of the Web is a field that requires the attention of both computer scientists and social scientists.

The aim of this conference is to bring these two groups together across the disciplinary divide for perhaps the first time, exploring the development of the Web across different areas of everyday life and technological development. We welcome papers from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, including computer science, physics, economics, political science, sociology, geography, management, health.

International Political Science Association (IPSA)
21st World Congress
Santiago, Chile
12 – 16 July 2009
<http://www.santiago2009.org/>



Theme: Global discontent? Dilemmas of Change
Deadline: 1 December 2009

Globalization has produced a redistribution of power both within societies and within the world. Like any other major transformative process, it produces winners and losers. As the process

moves on, it generates its own discontents, its critics, its opponents. It produces politics of resistance as well as politics of compliance in which both states and NGOs take part. At this critical juncture, we believe that the globalization process and its outcomes constitute critical topics of study for all political scientists. Global discontent constitutes the central theme at our 21st World Congress of Political Science in Santiago, Chile.

To read the complete congress theme; propose papers and/or panels; apply for travel grants; and register for the IPSA 21st World Congress of Political Science, visit www.santiago2009.org

**International Communication Association
2009 Annual Conference
Chicago, IL, USA
21 – 25 May 2009
<http://www.icahdq.org/conferences/2009/>**



**Theme: Keywords in Communication
Deadline: 3 November 2009**

The conference theme has relevance across the repertoire of ICA's divisions and interest groups. It draws firstly from the British cultural critic Raymond Williams, who argued that groups build key terms of reference by which they collectively make sense of things around them.

Problems, debates, and points of conflict all depend on the recognition and usage of key terminology which enables and shapes certain kinds of collective understanding. Keywords are implicit in the inquiry of science, which has long stipulated that people think in conjunction with the concepts that they have in hand for thinking.

The notion of keywords builds on scholarly work in networking theory, which sees them as guides and directives to connecting with others. Keywords offer the material cues for citation analysis and patterns of information retrieval.

Finally, keywords have practical applications in journals, citation indices and cross-referencing encyclopaedia, where their application has become a common part of the academic landscape.

General Guidelines for All Submissions

ALL divisions and interest groups will accept only online submissions for the Chicago conference. Contact information for each division and interest group will be provided for questions only. If you have specific questions regarding a division or interest group program, you may contact the unit program planner for that division or interest group.

The following guidelines apply to ALL submissions, including theme sessions and affiliate organizations.

Deadline: All submissions must be completed online no later than 11:00 p.m. EDT, November 3, 2008. To avoid technical problems, early submission is strongly encouraged. The conference submission website will go online around September 15, 2008. To reach the conference website, go to the ICA home page at <http://www.icahdq.org> and follow the link for

2009 Conference Submission. It is essential that you read the complete instructions carefully and prepare your submission prior to logging on.

Eligibility: You do not need to be an ICA member to submit a paper or proposal for the conference. When you visit the conference submission website, you will choose the "ICA Member" or the "Non-ICA Member" category and proceed according to onscreen instructions. Members must use the same email addresses as that in the ICA membership database to avoid creating a duplicate record.

10th Mediterranean Research Meeting
European University Institute
Florence & Montecatini Terme, Italy
25 – 28 March 2009



<http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mrm2009/>

Reaching its tenth anniversary, the Mediterranean Research Meeting:

- Is committed to foster theoretical and empirical research and dialogue among scholars from countries across the Mediterranean and with Mediterranean issue concerns;
- Aims to enable junior scholars to meet more senior scholars in an interactive environment, and to promote further research collaboration;
- Focuses attention on legal, historical, economic and socio-political issues;
- Stresses its aim to reach as wide as possible coverage of all Mediterranean areas, with topics relating to the Middle East, North Africa, Southern and South-Eastern Europe, their mutual relationships and their relations with Europe;
- Encourages the publication and dissemination of this research in edited volumes, thematic issues of learned journals, and the Mediterranean Programme RSCAS-EUI Working Papers series.

Exhibition
Byzantium: 330 – 1453
The Royal Academy of Arts
Burlington House, Piccadilly
London, UK



<http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/byzantium/>

Supported by the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation, the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation



This ambitious exhibition, a collaboration between the Royal Academy of Arts and the Benaki Museum in Athens, provides a grand-scale survey of 1,000 years of history. Highlighting the splendours of the Byzantine Empire, 'Byzantium 330–1453' incorporates over 300 objects. Some of the works have never been displayed in public before.

Exhibition opening times

Saturday 25 October 2008 – Sunday 22 March 2009
10am–6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)

Late night openings:

Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)
Except Friday 26 December (closes 6pm)

Christmas opening hours: The RA is closed on 24 and 25 December.

SESP joins ISI-Web of Knowledge

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the whole Editorial Team of **South European Society and Politics**, we are very pleased to inform you that SESP has been selected to be included in the Social Science Citation Index of ISI-Web of Knowledge. To celebrate, our publishers are offering **free downloads** from each of the last three issues of the journal. See <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713636479~db=all>

We are particularly grateful to all those of you who have decisively contributed to SESP over the years. You have helped us to make SESP one of the leading journals on Southern Europe.

Thanks are also due to our publishers, Taylor and Francis, who have been fundamental in this new venture which the Journal is now entering into.

From now onwards, we hope to consolidate and expand the strengths which we have in SESP, and hope we can count on you for that big effort. Do please remember to consider us for your next journal publication.

All the best

Efharisto – Grazie – Obrigado – Gracias – Tesekkür ederim - Grazzi!

Susannah Verney (University of Athens)
Anna Bosco (University of Trieste)
Marina Costa Lobo (University of Lisbon)



The new programming period of the structural funds: Challenges for Greece

by Anastassios Chardas



**EUROPEAN UNION
STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

The new programming period of the European Union's Regional Policy (EURP) started in 2007 and it will officially end in 2013. According to most estimates it will be the last package of regional assistance that will be diverted to Greece.

The 2004 and 2007 enlargements of the EU resulted in the accession of countries with lower levels of economic development. Apart from the geographical expansion, significant changes in the political priorities of the EU in relation with the EURP take place with the current programming period.

We refer to the 'Lisbonisation' of the policy, in other words the requirement on behalf of the recipient member states to indicate to the Commission how they intend to promote the objectives of the Strategy that was decided during the Lisbon European Council of March 2000. This is a controversial development since the two –the EURP and the 'Lisbon Strategy'– do not always converge in their priorities or the governance mechanisms that they have at their disposal in order to achieve them.

For the programming period 2007-2013 Greece faces the biggest challenge since the inception of the EURP. For the first time the whole of the country will not be included in the Objective 1 category, which is defined by those areas with GDP growth rates less than the 75% of the EU average. That is the consequence of growth experienced by some Greek regions but also of the 'statistical effect'. The latter results by the artificial decrease of the average GDP growth rates because of the enlargement and/or the increase in the measurement of the Greek GDP after the recent revision of the GDP estimates, which was undertaken by the country's government. This does not significantly affect the size of the finances that will be directed to the country, which is a total of around 20, 1 billion euros.

In order to justify the complementarity of the objectives of the National Strategic Development Plan (ESPA) with the 'Lisbon Strategy' the Greek government decided to place more emphasis on the qualitative dimensions of the funding that stems from the structural funds. This will happen at the expense of the objectives that aim at the enhancement of the physical infrastructure, which has traditionally been the main policy area that was pursued by the previous three CSFs.

The two sets of objectives are pursued through the usual mix of sectoral and regional Operational Programmes (OPs) albeit the latter are divided between the Phasing Out and the Phasing- in Regional OPs. What merits attention is the inclusion of a separate OP for 'Administrative Reform', which aims at combating what is probably the most serious problem of the Greek politico-economic system. The governance structures in general remain intact with some slight modifications.

Overall, there are signs that the new programming period will cover more or less the same policy priorities as the previous ones. The regional component of the programme seems to gain an advantage compared to the sectoral. That can only be a positive development since after almost 20 years of the EURP intervention in Greece there is little sign that the 'regional problem' of the country –the extraordinary concentration of economic activity in and around the area of Athens– has been combated.

Indeed, there is sufficient evidence to suggest the view that the EURP has contributed to the intensity of the centripetal forces that were already apparent in the country's economic geography. The traditional centralism of the Greek administrative system that accompanies the geographical agglomeration allows limited space for hope that the ESPA will manage to redirect these forces.

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more info @ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/prord/sf_en.htm

The Common Assessment Framework in Greece

by Dr. George Aspridis

The Common Assessment Framework (C.A.F.) (Staes/Thijs 2005/1, 2005/3, C.A.F. Works) during the first period (2000-2005) was implemented as a pilot in representative public organizations, like hospitals, administrative regions and first and second degree local administration organizations. The first fully implemented procedure began in February 2007. Forty-one applications were submitted in total by interested parties, of which 20 were fulfilling the criteria. Those applications were evaluated from a committee consisting of special scientists, scientific and social organisation representatives as well as experts under the presidency of an Administrative Science Professor. This procedure was completed in December 2007 and the first prize of quality was awarded to the Greek Medicine Organisation.



The first group of criteria refers to «Enablers». Through an examination of Greek examples, it was observed that the first criterion («Leadership») included target-setting and aims of the organization, the implementation of a quality system and the enforcement of educational actions and establishment of a conversation procedure between employees and leadership. The second criterion, «Strategy and planning», included a self-evaluation system acknowledging problems and put forward best practice for their resolution. The next criterion, «Human Resources Management», included the amelioration of human resource attraction policy, employee education, formation of a new organizational culture, systematic organization and conduction of human resource research and finally invitation–challenge to employees to evaluate their managers. That allows staff to feel more satisfied from their active participation in such a procedure.

The fourth criterion, «Partnerships and Resources», included the development and utilization of appropriate mechanisms for customer complaint management and the introduction of innovative budget formation systems. The fifth criterion, «Process and Change Management», included the development of a system for continuous improvement and adaptation of procedures according to performance measurement and their effectiveness.

The next group of criteria consists of the «Results». Specifically, in the «People Satisfaction» criterion, it was shown that the employees of the service under evaluation were more strict in their evaluation than citizens. The seventh criterion, i.e. «Customer/Citizen-Oriented Results», focuses in total performance of services offered towards customers/citizens, who ought to be served quickly and efficiently. The eighth criterion, «Society Results», focused on the development of cooperation with the society, which the public service is based in, so as to realize the whole of its local and social activities; other factors included supporting people in

minority positions and the development of actions for energy economy, waste reduction etc. In the last criterion, «Key Performance Results», the necessity of internal controls and the establishment of inspections were highlighted, as well as the participation in competitive contests.

C.A.F provides the Greek administration with the capacity to exercise self-evaluation that will be based on real data. It is the means through which an improvement procedure can take place, where it is necessary, as well as the means through which employees can be encouraged to participate themselves. Completing the process provides opportunities for progress as well as for high levels of achievement. Proper technical knowledge has been formatted, either externally or internally, for the C.A.F tool development. A tool that is harmless, because it is descriptive enough and records the necessary actions for organizational improvement in detail. On the other hand it is considered bureaucratic, because it ultimately constitutes the entire material collection concerning the organization. Yet, it is also useful, because in this way the institutional and organizational frameworks of its operations are recorded.

Full C.A.F implementation contributes to the continuous administrative improvement through real based evaluation data, progress recognition that has been made and the identification of exceptional performance fields. Also, it contributes to promoting and incorporating good administrative practices, either within the same organization, or amongst different organizations, and that progress is measured in fixed time terms. (Vaksevanidou, Staes/Thijs 2005/1).

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