

Women's participation as members and leaders of national political science associations

In terms of membership, national political science associations (PSA) affiliated to IPSA range from the giant American PSA (with almost 16,000 members in 2011) to the small Lithuanian PSA with 50 members. Among the larger associations are the Japanese, Korean, German, Canadian and British PSAs with 1300-1800 members. Most of the PSAs have between 100 and 600 members.

Not only are there huge variations in the size of national PSAs, but also very significant variations in the participation of women both as members and in leadership positions.

Unusually, women outnumber men in the membership of the Croatian and Lithuanian PSAs. In the majority of national associations women count for around one third of total membership. In contrast, women are only one out of ten members of the Japanese PSA, one out of eight of the Korean PSA and one out of five in the Portuguese and Ukrainian PSAs.

At the time of the 2011 survey, women held leadership positions (President or Chair) in 13 national PSAs:

¥ Australia	¥ Austria	¥ Belgium	¥ Canada
¥ Finland	¥ France	¥ Lithuania	¥ New Zealand
¥ Russia	¥ Slovenia	¥ South Africa	¥ Turkey
¥ Uruguay			

Women were Vice-Presidents in 12 Association:

¥ Austria	¥ Bolivia	¥ Croatia	¥ Germany
¥ Korea	¥ Lithuania	¥ Russia	¥ Slovakia
¥ South Africa	¥ Spain	¥ UK	¥ USA

Women also held the position of secretary general in 12 associations:

¥ Portugal	¥ Croatia	¥ Ukraine	¥ UK
¥ Brazil	¥ Canada	¥ Hungary	¥ Lithuania
¥ Belgium	¥ Sweden	¥ Czech Republic	¥ Ireland

The creation of this subcommittee of the IPSA executive committee followed receipt of a report on the status of women in IPSA prepared by Carole Pateman, who went on to chair the new Committee on Women's Issues. Its objectives were to monitor the position of women in IPSA and to recommend ways in which action could be taken to improve this.

An end to all-male Executive Committees came in 1985, and with the election of Carole Pateman as First Vice-President in 1988 change was under way. She became the first woman IPSA President in 1991 and participation of women on the Executive continued to rise thereafter. In 1995 IPSA began monitoring the level of involvement of women in IPSA and to provide regular reports with sex-

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Moreover, three out of five key positions in the IPSA EC were held by women in 2011: Lourdes Sola (Past President), Helen Milner (First Vice-President and Vice-President Americas) and Marian Sawyer (Vice-President Asia and Oceania). Since the election of Lourdes Sola to the presidency (2006-2009), IPSA hopes to alternate where possible between men and women at IPSA presidential elections.

IPSA Gender Research Committees

IPSA sponsors three research committees with a specific interest in applying a gender lens to politics. In 1976 it recognized a study group on Sex Roles and Politics, which was given research committee status in 1979 and in 2003, after a vote by its members, changed its name to Gender, Politics and Policy. The second initiative in this area was the creation in 1988 of a study group on Women, Politics and Developing Nations; which became a research committee in 1992. Finally in 2002, IPSA recognized the research committee on Gender, Globalization and Democracy. The three gender-oriented research committees collaborate in running pre-Congress workshops on different themes. In 2012, for example, the theme is intersectionality and women's movements. All in all, we note a slight rise in women's participation as IPSA research committee chairs from less than 12 percent in the 1990s to around 16 percent these days (see Table 1).

IPSA Membership

In 2009, IPSA reached its highest proportion of women members to date. With women forming 36 percent of members, the figure was around 16 percentage points higher than a decade earlier, an 80 percent increase (see Table.1). As the individual membership in IPSA had tripled during this period (from 1084 in 1999 to more than 3659 in 2009) this represents hundreds of women political scientists joining IPSA for the first time.

IPSA World Congress of Political Science

For the 2006 Congress IPSA produced a Directory of 701 women political scientists from within its membership. Participation of women in IPSA Congresses was continuing to rise and from 26 percent at Fukuoka in 2006 it jumped to 37 percent at Santiago in 2009 (see Table.1). This represents a substantial upswing in participation from the 14.2 percent of 1988 and the around 20 percent of 1990s and early 2000s.

Asia and Pacific

Australian Political Studies Association

Japanese Political Science Association

Korean Political Science Association

New Zealand Political Studies Association

Political Science Association of Nepal

Republican Association of Political Studies (Kazakhstan)

Africa

Société Camerounaise de Science Politique

South African Association of Political Studies

International Political Science Association
Association internationale de science politique

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