



COMPARING LEGISLATURES

French political science association (AFSP) 11th Conference,
August 31-September 2, 2011, Strasbourg

Call for papers

This section, focusing on “Comparing legislatures”, aims at reviewing current parliamentary researches building on a comparative perspective. Dwelling upon a methodological and analytical point of view, the panel addresses in priority the question of the relationships between comparative politics and legislative studies.

To this end, two related questions are submitted to analysis:

- How useful are comparative political studies to understand the role and performance of contemporary Legislatures? To what extent are the main approaches of comparative political analysis - such as political regimes typologies, consensual democracies - helpful to study contemporary legislatures?

- Similarly, what can comparative politics learn from the study of legislatures? What do Parliament comparisons tell us about the configuration of political systems? To what extent are the main variables of Parliament comparisons like *Working/ talking Parliament, degree of rationalism and degree of consensus, electoral magnitude*, valuable to understand the features of political regimes?

Purposes behind these questions are both analytical and methodological.

Regarding the numerous ways to compare Legislatures from RCVs studies to parliamentary debates analysis, and to MP's sociography, this section questions the value

of these different methods in a comparative research design, with specific focus on internal arrangements of Legislatures.

These issues will be addressed through two different workshops:

1) *Comparing the French Parliament*: often viewed as a relatively weak institution, we aim to test alleged marginality of the French Parliament, by considering the various elements that allow comparisons with its European counterparts.

2) *Comparing the US Congress and/or the European Parliament*. Also considered as exceptional, these two legislatures need to be compared, either to each other, or to other national parliaments. The stake here targets better understanding of the functioning of Legislatures in non-parliamentary systems.

This thematic section gives the priority to Contributions dealing with comparative approaches (either empirical or theoretical), focusing on various kinds of Legislatures (national or supranational). Papers analyzing advanced democratic legislatures, especially the American Congress, the French Parliament and the European Parliament, are very expected. The GRPP team will encourage any kind of approach or method.

- **Conference talks** : french, English
- **The firm deadline for receipt of paper proposals (one sheet) is October 15, 2010.** Proposals would be sent to:

comparerlesparlements@gmail.com

Each conference talk proposal, in French or English, will include the following elements :

- First and last name of the author
- Institutional affiliation
- Email address
- Proposed title of talk
- Abstract, clearly presenting the subject, objectives, methodology used and results

- **Timetable**

October 15, 2010: Deadline for receipt of paper proposals (word file)

November, 2010: Notification of selection will be sent to contributors.

April 15, 2011 : Deadline for receipt of bilingual abstracts (French- English) (about 1500 signs)

June 15, 2011 : Deadline for receipt of papers (pdf file)

August 31- September 2, 2011 : Conference in Strasbourg

- **Program co-chairs**

Anne-Laure Beaussier, PhD candidate, CEPEL, Université de Montpellier
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