

IPSA-Sex Roles and Politics Research Committee

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The Research Committee on Sex Roles and Politics of the International Political Science Association serves (1) to organize research and publishing opportunities; (2) to bring together women, and men interested in women's issues and participation of women in politics; and (3) to facilitate communication among these scholars. Since gaining full Research Committee status in August 1979, we have published a quarterly newsletter, prepared for future conferences, and edited a volume of papers from one of our Roundtables.

Roundtable—University of Essex, 1979

The Roundtable held at the University of Essex in the week before the Moscow Congress was attended by 31 men and women from 11 countries. The approach was to discuss the influence that law has on women's opportunities for political participation and political activity. Papers concerning countries as diverse as Italy, Uganda, Israel and the United States were considered. The approach through law proved fruitful in relating women's role at work with their situation in the family and both to political activity. Papers on the influence of technology and on theory were also discussed and there was an informal session on Women's Studies Courses.

Panels—IPSA Moscow, 1979

The Sex Roles and Politics Study Group heard 17 presentations in three sessions at the Moscow Congress. Although focused on women in a wide variety of political systems and from countries as diverse as South Korea, Bulgaria, India, Tanzania, Finland, Nigeria, Brazil, the United States, the USSR, and Turkey, there were several themes that recurred. One was that technological and econo-

mic development does not necessarily enhance women's equality although socialism does increase participation in the modern economic sector and decreases an individual woman's dependence on an individual man.

A second was that socialism does not solve all problems. Other cultural factors (such as religion and migration) can have an overwhelming effect and housework seems, everywhere, to give women a double burden. Years of education does not eliminate sex differences in participation in policy making and political power.

Questions were asked about how to assess participation in systems without elections, whether participation in the police and military are required for full citizenship and how women with political duties fulfill and think about those duties. The importance of women's organizations—official and unofficial—was emphasized and it was observed that studies of women alone were as insufficient as studies of education, economic development and legal principles alone. Men must be studied as objects of curiosity not as norms. Finally, a new theoretical framework for comparative research was discussed.

Roundtable 1981

The subject will be: Political Socialization of Males and Females, including Education and Mass Media. To be held at a joint meetings with ECRP at Lancaster University, March 29 to April 4, 1981.

The papers will examine the political socialization of males and females both theoretically and empirically. The following questions especially will be considered: What males and females respectively are taught and learned about politics and the political system, what roles in the political system are allocated to males and females, the effects of what is learned about politics, the political system and

male and female roles on the working of the political system and the distribution of power. It is hoped that the specific study of the political socialization of females will contribute to a wider and deeper understanding of political socialization in general.

Send proposals for papers to Frank Boddendijk, Free University of Amsterdam, Department of Political Science, 31 Koninglaan, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

IPSA Congress, Rio 1982

Our research committee plans to participate extensively in the Rio Conference, both on IPSA plans and in our program of panels. Possible topics include: women, the family and citizenship; equal opportunity legislation; women's movements and organization; women in power; women and military regimes; women political refugees; patriarchy; theories of

feminism and theories. For our own panels, we suggested: women in national development, and migration policies and policies leading to migration. Send any ideas to: Fanny Tabak, R. Aires Saldanha 140-1202, Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Our *Newsletter* reports on our committee's activities, coordinates participation in Roundtables and Congresses, publishes information of interest to members, profiles what members are doing, lists jobs and other opportunities, and reviews books, articles, etc. For information, write: Convenor, Margherita Rendel, University of London, Institute of Education, 55 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0NU; or Newsletter Editor, Jeanne Marie Col, Graduate School of Public Affairs, State University of New York, Albany, New York 12222, USA; (518) 457-4071.

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