GREETINGS TO FPG MEMBERS

The FPG-APSA had another active year thanks to the contributions of our ever-increasing membership, this year at 232 members (compared to 95 members in 2003). Countries represented amongst our members include France, the USA, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Canada, Germany, Japan and the UK. Once again we had a theme panel at this year’s APSA meeting, “First and Second Order Elections in New French Electoral Cycle: Hard Times for Whom?” and several of our members presented papers on non French related panels. The late night Friday reception, sponsored by the French Embassy was the biggest ever, with over 100 people attending. Special congratulations go to Emily Matthews whose paper was selected for the Frank L. Wilson APSA paper award. This year we will be once again awarding the Wilson Prize as well as the Georges Lavau Best Dissertation Award and the Stanley Hoffmann Best English-language article award.

Don’t forget there are three ways in which you can participate at the APSA meetings: propose a panel; propose a short course, or coordinate a working group (see below for more details).

Big institutional changes are on the horizon. The group is moving to Sciences Po Bordeaux under the leadership of Sylvain Brouard and his colleagues in Bordeaux. We will be working together this year to transfer the group to Bordeaux for the 2012 meetings. We also worked with the leadership of the Association Française de Science Politique to create a NEW related group for the AFSP. The AFSP group will be co-administered by the FPG.

As always, we have many people and institutions to thank for their hard work and support: François Rivasseau and the French Embassy in the USA, Nonna Mayer and Yves Déloye at the AFSP, Rainbow Murray, Annie Laurent, Simon Bornschier, Eric Belanger, Michael Bosia, and Season Hoard. We would also like to welcome our new assistant at WSU, John Branstetter.

So please read on for more details on our collective accomplishments and future, including a new book section. The first half of the newsletter is on the FPG-APSA and the second half on the news of the French Policy and Politics group of the Political Studies Association in the UK, another indicator of our international scope. Additional information about out groups can also be found on our website listed above. And please do share with us your news, comments, questions, and updated contact information.

Bien Cordialement,

Andrew Appleton and Amy G. Mazur
News of the French Politics Groups-APSA

APSA- Washington D.C., 2010

We were able to get an additional theme panel slot this year’s meeting. Below is the panel line-up, papers are available to download on the APSA website at http://www.apsanet.org/.

Theme Panel: First and Second Order Elections in New French Electoral Cycle: Hard Times for Whom?
Chair: Bernard N. Grofman

Explaining the onset of cohabitation
Robert Elgie, Dublin City University
Iain McMenamin, Dublin City University

Executive and legislative electoral linkage: The results of the legislative elections before and after the reform
Bernard Dolez, CERAPS
Annie Laurent, CERAPS

The national economic vote trumps the local? French regional election results
Christine Fauvelle-Aymar, University of Tours
Michael S. Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa

First and second order elections for a challenger: the case of the Front National
Joel Gombin, Université de Picardie-Jules Verne
Discussant: Jocelyn Evans, University of Salford

Electoral Forecasting in France
Chair: Michael S. Lewis-Beck

Forecasting turnout at European elections: the French case in comparative perspective
Jocelyn Evans, University of Salford
Gilles Ivaldi, Université de Nice, Sophia Antipolis

Forecasting the 2010 French regional elections
Bruno Jérôme, University of Paris II Pantheon Assas
Veronique Jerome, University of Paris I-Sud Orsay

A public policy mood approach to electoral forecasting: A test on French national elections
Vincent Tiberj, Sciences Po

Forecasting how votes will translate into seats in the French 2012 legislative elections
University of London, Queen Mary
Discussant: Michael S. Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa
The site for the 2010 meeting is still not official, due to impending labor disputes at the San Francisco location. Proposals for papers, panels and roundtables need to be submitted through the APSA web-based system by December 15th. You will also need to submit to the FPG coordinators your proposal by this deadline. Given our limited number of panel slots, a pre-requisite for all submissions is co-sponsorship, so please indicate your division cosponsor in your application. We will still accept proposals for individual papers, but we will give priority to complete panels and will place papers on preexisting panels, where possible. We also will give priority consideration to panels addressing this year’s conference theme (http://www.apsanet.org/content_4827.cfm). Last year, we were able to obtain an additional panel. Be sure to let us know you are doing this; we will also contact the theme program chairs on your behalf. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us; we are happy to help you with the APSA web based submission system, which can be difficult to navigate.

**Short Courses at APSA** – Also remember the short course format at APSA. You can hold half day or day long workshops on a given topic the Wednesday prior to the conference. The deadline is not until mid March for this and short courses are automatically accepted. This is a great format for teaching workshops or coordinating a new or on-going project. We have held three short courses – one on teaching French Politics in 2005 and a second one for the Fifth Republic at Fifty book in 2006.

**Working Group** - A specific working group on French Politics can be organized just prior to the meetings, through APSA’s coordinating system. A working group attends all relevant panels’ sessions and meets regularly throughout the meetings outside of those sessions to discuss related issues. The group has organized a French Politics working group in the past; members are welcome to lead one and we can help you with the organization.

**AFSP Related Group** -- The AFSP welcomes paper and panel proposals on a wide range of topics related to the study and/or practice of French and European Political Science. Proposals that include political scientists from France as well as other countries are encouraged along with proposals that focus on the theme of this year’s meetings. Co-sponsorships with other groups/divisions are required for acceptance. The group is co administered with the French Politics Group (APSA). CONTACTs: Amy G. Mazur. Convener of the FPG. Department of Political Science, Washington State University. E-mail: mazur@wsu.edu Yves Deloye, Secretary general of AFSP. E-mail: yvesdeloye@hotmail.com.

**Frank L. Wilson Best APSA Paper Award**

Inaugurated in 2004, the award is given each year for papers presented on French politics at the previous year’s meeting. Papers may be comparative as long as a significant part focuses on France.
This year’s winner was Emily Olivia Matthews, University of California, San Diego, for her paper "Should We Go Steady? Patterns of Cooperative Lobbying Behavior among Forestry Advocacy Groups in France and Sweden."

The paper was selected from a pool of 21 papers that were available for download. The selection was based on the schedule of the French Politics Group at the 2009 APSA meeting and a search in the APSA database for papers that included “France” or “French” in their abstracts. The committee’s ranking was based on the following three criteria: (1) originality and scope; (2) quality of the data and methods; and (3) overall clarity and structure of the paper. On this basis, we each selected five top papers.

Among several strong papers that the committee considered, Emily’s paper was the only one that each committee member considered as being either the top or the second best paper of the lot. What made Emily’s paper clearly stand out as the winner was the originality and relevance of the research problem and of the theoretical argument being proposed, as well as the clarity and the quality of the writing. The theory and the research design are both solid and well developed. The interview-based evidence presented in the paper is convincing, although the committee would have preferred a more rigorous test of the author’s expectations. Despite it being still a work in progress, the committee found the paper to be innovative, and the policy terrain to be new and unique. With this award, the committee wishes to recognize this very stimulating and promising research project.

2010 Award Committee: Simon Bornschier (University of Zurich); Eric Belanger (University of Montreal); Michael Bosia (St. Michael’s College)

2011 Award Committee: Kimberly Morgan, (George Washington University); Emily Olivia Matthews (University of California, San Diego); Antoine Roger (SPIRIT, IEP Bordeaux)

Georges Lavau Dissertation Award for 2011

The French Politics Group (FPG) awards a prize for the best dissertation on contemporary (twentieth and twentieth-first century) French politics (or with a significant component on French politics). The prize, co-sponsored by the FPG and French Politics, Culture & Society, brings with it an award of $100 (and great prestige). Previous winners have reached the highest levels of this profession—in the spirit of Georges Lavau.

The award was first made in 1993 and is given every three years. Previous awardees include:

Marcos Ancelovici 2008 (PhD, MIT)
Cindy Skach 2005 (PhD, Harvard University)
Virginie Guiraudon 1999 (PhD, Harvard University)
John Huber 1996 (PhD, University of Rochester)
Amy Mazur 1993 (PhD, New York University)
The next award will be made in 2011 for English-language dissertations defended between January 2008 and December 2010. Dissertation advisors and/or candidates themselves must submit ONE ELECTRONIC COPY of the nominated dissertation before the deadline of June 15, 2011. Self-nominations are accepted. Please address individual copies of nominated dissertations to FPG assistant, John Branstetter at john.branstetter@email.wsu.edu. Questions about the award may be addressed to the FPG office as well. The award committee includes: Virginie Guiraudon (CERAPS, Université de Lille 2); Jonathan Laurence (Boston College); and Alistair Cole (Cardiff University).

See our website for complete versions of some of the dissertations from past award years.

**Stanley Hoffmann Best Article Award on French Politics, 2011**

Administered by the FPG with the AFSP and financed by Sciences Po Paris, this award is given every other year to the best English-language article on French Politics published in any peer reviewed journal during the previous two years. The award was first given in 2007. Articles may be on any aspect of French Politics and the selection committee consults a full range of journals that publish scholarship on French Politics. Prize money is 1900 euros and the recipient is required to accept the award at the annual APSA meetings the year the award is made. For the list of abstracts and journals consulted, go to the FPG website, [http://www.wsu.edu/~frg/](http://www.wsu.edu/~frg/). Articles published in 2009 and 2010 will considered for the 2011 award. This year’s awards committee includes: John Gaffney (Aston University); Jonah Levy (University California, Berkeley); Annie Laurent (CERAPS).

**2009 Award**

181 articles published in 2007 and 2008 were consider in 99 different journals; 139 journals were searched. Award Committee: Frank Baumgartner (Penn State University); Jocelyn Evans (University of Salford); Sophie Duschesne (CEVIPOF).


**2007 Award**

223 articles published in 2005 through 2006 were considered from 112 refereed journals. The committee was comprised of Stanley Hoffmann--Chair (Harvard University), Gérard Grunberg (Sciences Po Paris), Pierre Hassner (Sciences Po Paris). The committee selected the following three winners, with the top prize going to James Shields.

James Shields (University of Warwick) for his January 2006 article in *Parliamentary Affairs*, “Political Representation in France: A Crisis of Democracy?”
David Yost (US Naval Postgraduate School) for his June 2006 article in *International Affairs*, “France’s New Nuclear Doctrine”

Elaine Thomas (Bard College) for her March 2006 article in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, “Keeping Identity at A Distance: Explaining France’s New Legal Restrictions on the Islamic Headscarf”.

**Teaching and Research Resources on the FPG Website**

The following resources are available on the FPG website:

- Collection of syllabi on French Politics posted under the rubric “Teaching”;
- A list of journals where articles are published on French Politics and all abstracts of articles on French Politics between 2005-2008 in the Awards section under the Stanley Hoffman Best Article Award;
- Recently defended dissertations in the Awards section under the Dissertation Award.

**Books**

**The Bureaucrat and the Poor**

*Encounters in French Welfare Offices*
Vincent Dubois, University of Strasbourg, France

Welfare offices usually attract negative descriptions of bureaucracy with their queues, routines, and impersonal nature. Are they anonymous machines or the locus of neutral service relationships? Showing how people experience state public administration, The Bureaucrat and the Poor provides a realistic view of French welfare policies, institutions and reforms and, in doing so, dispels both of these myths.

‘Vincent Dubois’ newly translated The Bureaucrat and the Poor: Encounters in French Welfare Offices provides an ethnographic “insider’s” look at the double role enacted by welfare workers as they encounter their clients. …The book is an astute study of the interrelationships between social conditions and administrative practices, analyzing the impact of welfare policies and practices on the well-being of their implementers, as well as their clients. In addition, it provides a superb illustration of the advantages of an interpretive analytic approach to the analysis of public policies, one that rests on ethnographic methods that are focused on questions of meaning for all concerned in a complex policy and organizational situation.’

– Dvora Yanow, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
News of the French Politics, Policy and Society Group-PSA

Since September 2010, the Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association on French politics is under new leadership, and has a (slightly) new name. The co-conveners of the French Politics, Policy and Society Group are Alistair Cole and Helen Drake (contact details at the top of this joint newsletter), who extend their sincere thanks to Ben Clift and Jocelyn Evans for their work in running the group up to now. The Group’s most recent activities (2010) are outlined below, as are its plans for 2011 and beyond.

Presence at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF) at Nottingham Trent University, UK, September 9-11th 2010.

Helen attended the conference and held a meeting to strengthen links between ASMCF and the PSA specialist group. The conference theme was La France et la Crise, and the organizers Chris Reynolds and Martin O’Shaughnessy have created a website to continue the debate: http://lafranceetlacrise.com/

PSA 2010: the Group’s Panels

The group ran two panels at PSA in Edinburgh in 2010, as follows

THE SARKOZY PRESIDENCY: CONTINUITY OR CHANGE IN FRANCE?
Alistair Cole (Cardiff) Sarkozy’s Political Leadership
Helen Drake (Loughborough) Sarkozy the European
Philip Marlière (UCL) Sarkozy’s Ideology
Raymond Kuhn (QMW) “Les médias, c’est moi.” Presidential media management in Sarkozy’s France

REVISITING THE STATE OF THE STATE (IN FRANCE)
Alistair Cole (Cardiff University ) The French State and its Territories
Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans (Toulouse IEP) The French State and its Fragilised elites

PSA Annual Conference 19-21 April, 2011 (London): The Group’s Panels

The Group has proposed three panels for PSA in London in April 2011, as follows. We are as yet awaiting confirmation that they will take place:

1). RETHINKING THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY

PANEL ORGANISER: ALISTAIR COLE
The panel reviews and renews the study of French Socialism, in the context of a potential reversal in electoral fortunes after three successive defeats in ‘decisive’ presidential elections. The panel proposal invites papers on two types: first the state of the contemporary PS in the light of the forthcoming presidential election of 2012; second, comparative and conceptual perspectives on the state of the study of the PS. The panel brings together papers that envisage the object of the Socialist Party at differing levels of analysis; from whole ‘stories’ of the party’s history and ‘genetic code’; to middle level analysis of organizational or policy dynamics, to the individual level of electors and activists. The panel aspires not only to take stock of the PS in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, but also to revive interest in a party that occupies an original position on the European left. Participants include Philippe Marlière, Rainbow Murray and Robert Ladrech

2). FRANCE AND ITS MIGRANTS

PANEL ORGANISER: HELEN DRAKE, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

Via a case-study of France this panel explores a number of the many dimensions of contemporary migration and immigration in Europe. We investigate the terminological and statistical complexities involved, and focus on the consequences of legal distinctions drawn between EU and non-EU migrants for migrants’ lives, with particular reference to their political and civic rights. We consider the specifically French context to the difficulties and opportunities for integration by migrants into the host society and by way of contrast, compare this with the United Kingdom. Our papers allow us to question evidence of convergence towards EU policy norms in this field, as well as consider the enduring national specificities that plague policy-making in the domain of migration and immigration in the present day. We also consider the implication of France’s migrants for notions of French national identity and ‘Frenchness’. Participants include Helen Drake (Loughborough University) Sue Collard (Sussex University), I Kursheed Wadia (Warwick University), and Matthew Moran (Kings College London)

3). POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE NEW RADICAL AGENDA IN FRANCE

PANEL ORGANIZER JAMES SHIELDS, ASTON UNIVERSITY

For the past 25 years, political radicalism in France has been consigned to the margins. As center-right and center-left grew closer in their policies and in power-sharing, and as the French Communist Party sank into deeper decline, the far-right Front National was alone among the major parties in trumpeting its radicalism. Two major events occurred recently to change this: the election of Nicolas Sarkozy as President in 2007 and the global financial crisis. Political radicalism is back on the agenda in France. Sarkozy was elected on a promise of ‘rupture’ and a markedly right-wing program of economic and social reform. The polarizing effects of his presidency in a context of economic crisis have been felt across the French left, where the new Socialist leader, Martine Aubry, has called for her party to reinvent itself as a true party of ‘the Left’, while on the far left
Olivier Besancenot cultivates support for his anti-capitalist, anti-system, anti-Sarkozy platform. This panel will bring together leading French and British scholars to discuss the prospects for radical political renewal in France, considering a number of questions that span the political spectrum. Participants include James Shields, Alistair Cole, Jocelyn Evans, Nonna Mayer and Florence Haegel

**European Union Studies Association (EUSA) Twelfth Biennial International Conference 2011 (Boston, Massachusetts, March 3-5).**

On behalf of the group, Helen Drake has proposed two panels to this conference, as follows, and is awaiting news:

**1. France at the EU, G8 and G20: International governance in question?**
Participants Martin Schain (Chair and discussant), Sophie Meunier, Jonah Levy and Helen Drake

This panel seeks to analyze ongoing French strategies for influencing and shaping international economic governance, especially by means of key roles in leading international organizations, and with specific reference to the global economic and financial crisis of 2008. It does so by means of a three-fold emphasis: first, on the part played by France's anti-American discourse - latent and explicit - in shaping President Sarkozy's responses to the crisis; second, via an analysis of the extent to which traditional 'dirigisme' pilots French policy making in this area; and third, by means of a study of FPEU08 (the French presidency of the EU Council in 2008) when France was in the EU chair at precisely the moment when the crisis erupted, and with reference to France's aims and strategies for its presidency of G8 and G20 at a later point in the crisis.

**2. France and its Migrants. Participants: Martin Schain, Sue Collard and Helen Drake**

Panel Abstract: Via a case-study of France this panel explores a number of the many dimensions of contemporary migration and immigration in Europe. We investigate the terminological and statistical complexities involved, and focus on the consequences of legal distinctions drawn between EU and non-EU migrants for migrants’ lives, with particular reference to their political and civic rights. We consider the specifically French context to the difficulties and opportunities for integration by migrants into the host society. Our papers allow us to question evidence of convergence towards EU policy norms in this field, as well as consider the enduring national specificities that plague policy-making in the domain of migration and immigration in the present day. We also consider the implication of France’s migrants for notions of French national identity and ‘Frenchness’.

**Other forthcoming planned activities**

- Sue Milner (Bath University, group member) is planning a workshop in summer 2011 on a comparative study of UK and French public policy-making.
Helen Drake is planning a workshop in November 2011 on the subject of ‘Political Rhetoric on Immigration: the case of Migrants in France and Europe’. This is a joint initiative with Korkut Umut, convenor of the PSA’s Comparative European Politics Specialist Group.

Alistair Cole will be presenting a paper at the 11th AFSP congress in Strasbourg in the panel on *Les administrations publiques en réforme(s) : une comparaison Allemagne-France*, organized by Jean-Michel Eymeri-Douzans (IEP Toulouse) and Sabine Kuhlmann (DHV Speyer, Germany)

**Future Plans**

As ever, the group is keen to facilitate academic exchange of all kinds. It continues to make teaching documents available, and is always looking for additions to its portfolio of module documents. These can be sent to Helen Drake (H.P.Drake@lboro.ac.uk) or Alistair Cole (ColeA@Cardiff.ac.uk)

In addition, we are always looking to support initiatives to organize conferences or seminars – either exclusively on French politics, or on French politics in a broader comparative perspective. If you have an idea for an academic event on French politics, why not contact either Helen Drake (H.P.Drake@lboro.ac.uk) Alistair Cole (ColeA@Cardiff.ac.uk).