Origins and Aims of the Standing Group

The ECPR Standing Group on Regionalism was founded in November 1993 by Michael Keating and John Loughlin following a conference at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, on the ‘Political Economy of Regionalism’. Their aim was to bring together researchers working in the fields of territorial politics, regionalism, federalism, and related subjects from Europe, North America and beyond. The establishment of the Standing Group reflected the growing importance of regional and federal studies to the social sciences, accompanied by the need to connect people working in these fields.

The Standing Group seeks to build networks and facilitate communications and research collaboration between scholars working on federalism and regionalism through a number of means: the bi-annual newsletter, regular email bulletins, joint publications, the journal Region and Federal Studies, organising the well-regarded Summer School on issues related to regionalism or federalism (coordinated by Jörg Mathias), undertaking partnership projects with likeminded academic organisations, encouraging panels at ECPR general conferences and joint sessions, and sponsoring other workshops and events.

Who We Are – Members and Organisers

In February 2007, the Standing Group underwent a minor reorganization as Michael Keating and John Loughlin stepped down as co-Convenors. They were replaced by Wilfried Swenden (University of Edinburgh) and Klaus Detterbeck (University of Magdeburg). Jörg Mathias was also replaced by Eve Hepburn (University of Edinburgh) as Academic Coordinator, though Jörg has continued his role as Coordinator of the Summer School. The new team was elected at the 2007 ECPR Joint Sessions in Helsinki and re-launched the group under the new name ‘Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism’. They have proposed to expand the activities of the group through seeking external funding, and undertaking partnership collaborations. The Standing Group has over 300 members. Researchers who hold a relevant degree and are currently engaged in research in territorial politics fields are encouraged to join. Members’ research interests are broadly spread throughout the fields of regional and federal studies, and associated areas such as spatial planning and economics, parties, aspects of constitutional law, and the rapidly developing areas of socio-cultural issues, identity politics, citizenship and nation-building. Although the main territorial focus of the Group members’ activities is on Europe and North America, other ‘global’ regions are represented.
ECPR F&R Standing Group Activities

The ECPR Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism organizes conferences and seminars on various aspects of regionalism and federalism as well as workshops at the ECPR annual Joint Sessions, and panels at the ECPR General Assembly. There is a twice-yearly newsletter edited by Academic Coordinator Eve Hepburn covering Research in Progress, Conference News, and Publications News. Additionally, the Standing Group will post regular e-bulletins with announcements on upcoming conferences, seminars and job postings. Finally, there is an electronic bulletin board: www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups//regionalism. Here, one can also find the Standing Group’s newsletters dating back to 1999.

The Standing Group’s publishing outlets are the journal Regional and Federal Studies, edited by Charlie Jeffery, the P.I.E. Peter Lang Series on Federalism and Regionalism edited by Michael Keating, and the Routledge (formerly Frank Cass) book series on regionalism edited by John Loughlin. Other relevant publishers are the Manchester University Press Devolution Series and the Routledge Series in Federal Studies. The Standing Group also helps to facilitate research collaboration among members, and a number of joint publications have been produced under the auspices of the Group.

So far there are no formal commitments, and no fees. The group receives a small annual grant from the ECPR. However, members are obliged to keep us posted about changes in your research or address details.

‘Regions in Europe’ Summer School

The ECPR F&R Standing Group’s Summer Schools Programme has been running since 2003. The aim of the summer school is to provide a specialized forum for exchange and debate on important issues in regional and federal studies today. The summer school provides advice and support for participants’ current research, and enables the dissemination of information in the form of a Lecture Series delivered by experts in the field. As such, the school has had high attendance rates and excellent academic results. The overall theme of the summer school is ‘Regions in Europe’ with specialized themes each year on, for example, the politics of regions (Newcastle, 2003), regional development strategies (Aalborg, 2004) and social and cultural perspectives of historical regions (Florence, 2005). Following a two-year break to allow a new cohort of PhD students working in regional and federal studies to emerge and benefit from the school, the Standing Group submitted another application for ECPR funding of summer schools in July 2007.

Subject to approval, the programme for 2008-10 is as follows:

• ‘New Challenges for Regionalism and Federalism in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century’, Munster, Germany, Summer 2008

• ‘Federalism, Regionalism and Public Policy’, Leiden, the Netherlands, 2009

• ‘Regional Diversity, Democracy and ‘Good Governance’, Cardiff’, 2010

Further details will be included in the next Newsletter. The Summer School provides an intensive programme of lectures, workshops and presentation of participants’ research. The school is open to young scholars engaged in research on aspects of regional and/or federal studies, mainly PhD students, but also MA and post-docs. There is a fee per participant, with two bursaries available. If you would like more info, please contact the Summer School Coordinator, Dr Jörg Mathias, Aston University, at:

J.Mathias@aston.ac.uk
Research in Progress

There are a number of large-scale research projects and collaborations, in addition to rapidly developing networks and groups, focused on aspects of regionalism and federalism in Europe and beyond. The research emerging from these collaborations heralds new and innovative approaches to questions of territory, moving away from the traditional emphasis on public law and intergovernmental relations towards social and cultural approaches to questions of identity, ethno-territorial cleavage, representation, political mobilization, citizenship and democratic legitimacy at regional vis-à-vis state scales of government. Researchers are exploring how political institutions accommodate social and cultural diversity, and have initiated interdisciplinary research ventures bringing together political scientists, social statisticians, political geographers, sociologists, lawyers and economists. Below are some examples of the research projects and networks in progress. If you are interested in receiving further information on any of these projects, please contact the coordinator whose details are provided.

Regional Elections - Barcelona

This purpose of this research network on Regional Elections is to explore the autonomy of regional elections from statewide processes. It uses a framework of ‘second order’ elections to test this (i.e. the traditional assumption is that voting in regional elections is determined by factors in the statewide political arena). The network has convened in December 2006 and April 2007. Its initial work focused on ‘stock-taking’, exploring aggregate patterns of turnout, party choice and consequent dynamics of government formation, all in comparison with statewide elections. The group is preparing a book on Regional Elections in EU states, to be published in 2008. This research has been partly funded by the Institut d’Estudis Autonomies of the Catalan government. The group is open and is planning to widen the comparison to non-EU countries. For further information contact the convenors:

Francesc Pallarès, Universitat Pompeu Fabre, Barcelona (email: francesc.pallares@upf.edu) and
Charlie Jeffery, University of Edinburgh (email: Charlie.jeffery@ed.ac.uk)

State-wide Parties in a multi-level context - Leuven

The aim of this research group is to explore the impact of regional election processes and region-specific party competition (involving non-statewide parties) on political parties structured for party competition in statewide politics. The focus of the group is on regional differentiation in party electoral strategies and organization. The group has adopted and modified the ‘Comparative Manifestos Project’ (CMP) coding scheme to fit the regional setting. The adapted CMP methodology uses quantitative content analysis of the electoral manifestos of political parties operating at the regional level. The research builds on earlier work at Leuven that was funded jointly by the University of Leuven Research Council and the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research. For further information contact the convenors:

Bart Maddens, University of Leuven, Belgium (email: bart.maddens@soc.kuleuven.be)
Wilfried Swenden, University of Edinburgh, Scotland (email: w.swenden@ed.ac.uk)
Regional Public Attitudes – Edinburgh/Birmingham

The research group on Regional Public Attitudes explores the importance citizens give to the region as a scale for political participation and social solidarity. Or, put another way, to what extent citizens no longer perceive the nation-state as the primary or sole location for political participation and social solidarity. The group seeks to develop conceptions of ‘regionalised citizenship’ and in doing so challenges the preoccupation of much of social science with the state as a ‘natural’ scale of government.

The group’s work drew impetus from the regional public attitudes surveys funded in the UK by the ESRC Devolution Programme. The group convened in December 2006 and Spring 2007. For further information, contact the convenors:

Charlie Jeffery, University of Edinburgh (email: Charlie.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk) and Dan Wincott, University of Birmingham (email: d.wincott@bham.ac.uk)

Yearbook on Federalism Network - Tübingen

The Yearbook on Federalism (Jahrbuch des Föderalismus) is an annual review of federalism and regionalism. The yearbook, now in its eighth year, is published in German and an annual conference is held to develop themes for the yearbook. These are primarily focused on developments in German federalism, country reports (mainly in Europe though sometimes beyond) and themes in comparative federalism and regionalism research.

The yearbook draws on a pan-European research network, including new and applicant states of the EU, but with a core group of Austrian, Belgian, German, Italian, Spanish, Swiss and UK scholars. The yearbook is funded by the Baden-Württemberg Land government. For further information contact the convener:

Rudolf Hrbek, University of Tübingen, (email: Rudolf.hrbek@uni-tuebingen.de)

Centre for Federal Studies – Canterbury, Kent

TheCentre for Federal Studies at the University of Kent was established in 2005 in order to promote interest in federal studies within the academic community. It organizes an annual lecture and a biennial research workshop on aspects relating to federalism. The focus of the Centre’s activities is not only the established federations, such as the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Australia, but also the European Union (EU) as an emergent federal union together with those parts of the world where federal arrangements have the possibility to promote peace, justice and stability – such as India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Russia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Iraq. The scope of federal studies is broad and includes those who are interested in comparative federalism, federalism as political theory and philosophy, federalism as conflict management and federalism as constitutional democracy. For further information on the lectures, conferences and workshops that the Centre organizes, in addition to the post-graduate programmes that the Centre offers, contact the Director:

Michael Burgess, University of Kent (email: M.D.Burgess@kent.ac.uk)
Conferences and Events

The ECPR F&R Standing Group has been involved in a number of conferences and events in the past few months. Of note, it sponsored a workshop at the ECPR Joint Sessions at Helsinki on 7-12 May 2007. The workshop was entitled ‘Exploring New Avenues in Federal Research’, and was organized by Jan Erk (University of Leiden) and Wilfried Swenden (University of Edinburgh). The workshop focused on four dimensions of comparative federalism: federal institutions, federalism and democracy, federalism and conflict-management and federalism and policy-making. The workshop drew scholars from a number of disciplines working on theoretical and empirical aspects of federalism. The debate and feedback on participants’ current research was generally agreed to be extremely beneficial. It is the directors’ intention that part of the proceedings will form the basis for an edited volume.

The Standing Group has been active in the ECPR General Conference in Pisa, Italy, on 6-8 September 2007, where it has organized a session on ‘Local and Regional Politics’. The section comprises 8 panels and 40 scholars working in such diverse areas as regional government coalitions, regional party organization, federalism and diversity, regional public policy, local and regional economies and civic engagement. The aim of the section is to encourage cross-disciplinary debate on contemporary issues of local and regional politics, with a focus on explaining the effects of state structural and supranational change on the territorial organisation of interests and identities; to understand better how territory informs politics and society at different levels; and to question whether we are using the right tools and methodologies for our analyses.


PSA Territorial Politics, Edinburgh, 10-11 January 2008

Territorial politics in the United Kingdom remains ‘interesting’. Following the 2007 elections, there is now a Scottish National Party minority government, a Labour-Plaid Cymru coalition administration in Wales, a Sinn-Fein—DUP power-sharing government in Northern Ireland, and Prime Ministerial change at the centre. This conference will seek to feature the best of contemporary research on territorial politics in the UK, as well as research that puts British territorial politics in a comparative, international context.

Papers are encouraged on any aspect of territorial politics including political ideas, political movements, elections and parties, institutional and policy development, and inter-governmental relations.

The conference will consider research that offers findings from case studies, cross-national and regional comparisons, and theoretical developments within political science.

The deadline for electronic submission of proposals for papers or panels is Friday 14 September 2007.

For further inquiries regarding the submission guidelines, contact the Academic organisers:

Dr Jonathan Bradbury, University of Swansea: j.p.bradbury@swansea.ac.uk

and

Dr Nicola McEwen, University of Edinburgh: N.McEwen@ed.ac.uk
ECPR Joint Sessions, 11-16 April 2008, Rennes

The workshops for the 2008 Joint Sessions have been confirmed. Four ECPR F&R Standing Group members were successful in getting their workshops approved. Caifrona Carter (University of Edinburgh) and Romain Pasquier (Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Rennes) are directing a workshop on ‘Regions as ‘Space’ for Politics’. If you are interested, contact the workshop directors: c.carter@ed.ac.uk and rpasquier@hotmail.com.

Arthur Benz (Fern Universität Hagen) and César Colino (UNED, Madrid) are also directing a workshop on the ‘Politics of Constitutional Change’. If you would like to participate, contact: arthur.benz@fernuni-hagen.de and ccolino@poli.uned.es. The deadline for applications is 1 December 2007. Further information on the workshops and conference can be found at: www.rennes2008.visionmd.co.uk/index.html.

ECPR General Assembly, Graduate Conference and Joint Sessions

This is an early announcement for upcoming ECPR conferences.

The second ECPR Graduate Conference will be held in Barcelona in 25-27 August 2007. Please contact us if you would like to submit a panel proposal on regional and/or federal studies at the conference.

The 2009 General Assembly will be held in Potsdam on 10-12 September.

The 2009 Joint Sessions are to be held in Lisbon. If you would like to submit a workshop proposal, please get in touch with us. The deadline for proposals is 15 February 2008.

We will include more details of these conferences in the next Newsletter in February 2008. Also, Check the ECPR website for further updates (www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr).

ASEN International Conference, April 15-16 2008

The Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN) is holding its 18th Annual Conference, entitled “Nationalism, East and West: Civic and Ethnic Conceptions of Nationhood”, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 15-16, 2008, at the London School of Economics. This conference seeks to assess the continuing relevance of the dichotomy between ‘inclusive’ and ‘exclusive’ nationalism in its various forms: its contribution to theoretical work on nationalism, its usefulness for historical interpretation and its value for contemporary policy-making.

The conference is open to any researcher who is interested in the study of nationalism and/or ethnicity. Submissions should not exceed 500 words and are expected by November 1, 2007. For further details, go to: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/ASEN/.

Regional Studies Association Conferences

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) is a learned society concerned with analysis of regions and regional issues. Through an international membership it provides a voice and network for, academics, students, practitioners and interested lay people in the field of regional studies. The RSA’s members comprise mainly political geographers, and political economists. It publishes the journals Regional Studies and Spatial Economic Analysis

The Association’s Winter Conference will be held in London on 23 November 2007. This year the theme is Transport, Mobility and Regional Development and the call for papers is now open (see www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk for further details). The 2008 International Conference will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, in May/June. The call for papers will be open from August 2007. Please check the website for updates.
New Publications

Multinational Federations
Michael Burgess & John Pinder (eds)  

This is the first comparative volume on multinational federations, bringing together a range of experts on federalism. Multinational federations are federal states that provide a framework which can accommodate, manage and resolve political conflicts that emerge from competing national visions, within or between states. Featuring key experts in the field such as Michael Burgess, Alain Gagnon and Ronald Watts, this book draws on a wide range of country studies including Belgium, Canada, India, Malaysia, Spain, Russia, Cyprus, India, Switzerland and the EU in order to illustrate the pivotal relationship between federalism and nationalism.

Devolution and Power in the UK

This book is concerned primarily with intergovernmental relations in the devolved UK. It explores the paradox of why devolution has enabled different approaches to government and policymaking to develop in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland since 1999, while the structure of devolution suggests that the UK government retains control over most aspects. It also compares the UK’s practices to those in other decentralised and federal states. Contributors include James Mitchell, Scott Greer, David Bell and Alex Christie and Charlie Jeffery.

Subnational government – The French Experience

This book examines the transformation of local governance in France since the 1982 decentralization reforms. It places these reforms and their consequences in the historical context of French nation-building, socio-economic changes within France and in relation to international trends in territorial governance. The book argues that we are witnessing a transformation of the classical Jacobin unitary state and the end of the old system of central-local relations.

Explaining Federalism

This book deals with the theoretical and empirical questions of federalism in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. It argued that in the long run the political institutions of federalism adapt to achieve congruence with the underlying social structure. This change could be in the centralist direction reflecting ethno-linguistic homogeneity, or in decentralist terms corresponding to ethno-linguistic heterogeneity.

Imagined Economies

This book examines the economic bases of regional sovereignty movements in the Russian Federation from 1990-1993. The central finding of the book is that variation in Russian regional activism is explained not by differences in economic conditions but by differences in the construction or imagination of economic interests.

BOOK REVIEWERS SOUGHT!
If you would like to review books on regionalism and federalism for our Standing Group’s academic journal *Regional and Federal Studies*, please contact Eve Hepburn (Eve.Hepburn@ed.ac.uk). Even if a book you are interested in reviewing is not listed here, we will endeavour to obtain a free review copy for you as soon as possible, or will inform you if a review copy of a book in your areas of interest has been received by RFS.

We’re on the Web!
Find us at:  
[www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups/regionalism](http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/standinggroups/regionalism/)
Regional and Federal Studies journal

Regional and Federal Studies (RFS) is one of the main publishing outposts of the ECPR Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism. It is a high-quality refereed social science journal that provides an academic forum for the publication of international research on regional and federal questions. The journal is published by Routledge (Taylor & Francis). Due to growing demand, from 2008 journal outputs will be increased from 4 to 5 issues per year.

The editors of the journal actively encourage article submissions to RFS (of approx. 8,000 words – please see the guidelines on the webpage below). In addition to calls for articles, we encourage Standing Group members to undertake book reviews for the journal. If you are interested in reviewing books on issues related to federalism, please contact Paolo Dardanelli (p.dardanelli@kent.ac.uk). If you want to review a book on other aspects of regionalism and territorial politics, please contact Eve Hepburn (eve.hepburn@ed.ac.uk). To submit an article to RFS for peer review please contact the Managing Editor of RFS, Charlie Jeffery (Charlie.jeffery@ed.ac.uk). You may find the RFS website here: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13597566.asp.

More Books for your Reading List…

**Federalism and Ethnic Conflict Regulation in India and Pakistan**

**Devolution and Constitutional Change in Northern Ireland**

**Föderalismus in Deutschland und in Europa**

**Föderalismusreform II: Weichenstellungen für eine Neuordnung der Finanz-beziehungen im deutschen Bundesstaat**

**Democracy and Diversity. Comparing India and the United States**

**Political Careers in Europe. Career Patterns in Multi-level Systems**

**The Dynamics of Federalism in National and Supranational Systems**

**Politics in the Russian Regions**

**The Architecture of Government**