



The Political Psychology Networking Conference for the Post-Communist Region

November 25th – 27th, 2011.

The Political Behavior Research Group (PolBeRG) based at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, together with the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) organized the Political Psychology Networking Conference for the post-Communist Region held between November 25th and November 27th, 2011. The topics and papers chosen were particularly related to or with specific implications for the post-communist region. Participants were encouraged to submit papers from the subfields of political conflict, violence and crisis; leadership and political personality; political communication; political culture, identity, and language; political attitudes and behavior; political decision-making and cognition; social inequality and social change; new theoretical and methodological developments; and the psychology of survey response. More than 80 participants, with thirty-five from outside Hungary were joined by nineteen Hungarians and sixteen CEU researchers and students. Held on campus at the Central European University, the participants were joined by well-known researchers in the field – Dinka Ćorkalo Biruski from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Zagreb; Bert Klandermans, President of ISPP and Professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Alex Mintz, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal *Political Psychology* and Professor and Dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya; David Redlawsk from Rutgers University; and Jeffrey Karp from Exeter University. Dinka Ćorkalo Biruski, Alex Mintz, Bert Klandermans,

and David Redlawsk were the keynotes speakers. Two insightful workshops were also provided during the conference: one on Behavior Genetics by Levente Littvay and one on Dynamic Process Tracing Environment held by David Redlawsk.

The Political Behavior Research Group's broad goals and expectations were to expand on the study of political psychology in the Post-communist region. The conference served as an excellent way to bring together researchers from the region and those who have an interest in the region, and to encourage both political scientists and social psychologists to cooperate towards the field of political psychology. The conference served as a networking hub as well as a scholarly meeting, and at the end of the conference it was successfully noted that scholars and participants were in discussion about similar events and common research areas that need to be undertaken in the future. At the end of the conference participants received feedback and, in addition, completed a survey, and 90% respondents agreed with the claim that the conference was a valuable academic experience. Furthermore, most participants consider that the conference increased their visibility in the field and offered them the opportunity to initiate collaborative research with their peers (75%).

For the organizers, the Political Behavior Research Group, the conference was a real success with the generous co-funding offered by CEU and the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP). The conference offered travel

grants, covered accommodation costs and offered catered meals and receptions for all participants. In the future, the organizers anticipate a bigger conference, with more funding, especially with a large applicant pool seen this year. The organizers hope that for future events they can broaden the regional focus to whole Europe. The organizers are now planning a Political Psychology panel at the Annual CEU Social Science Conference in 2012 and exploring other ways to increase the visibility and quality of Political Psychology scholarship in the region.

PolBeRG welcomes applications for membership by anyone interested in political behavior and political psychology, independent of their home institution or physical location. Please find us online at <http://polberg.ceu.hu> and contact us via email at polberg@ceu.hu

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