

2008 Meeting of the Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies (IPSA#9)

"Courts and the Separation of Powers"

Montreal, Canada

June 24-26, 2008

Host: Professor James Kelly, Concordia University

Convenor: Professor Michael Tolley, Northeastern University

Paper and panel proposals for the 2008 meeting of the Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies are now being accepted. The meeting is open to all scholars interested in the study of law and courts from a comparative perspective.

The theme of next year's meeting is "Courts and the Separation of Powers." The theory of the separation of powers forms a vital part of modern constitutionalism. That the governmental powers should be divided and the judiciary made independent of the executive and legislature are principles generally accepted by constitution makers around the globe. Nevertheless, the function of courts in parliamentary systems and constitutional democracies is not without its controversies. Tensions rise as courts adjudicate matters related to the leading social, political, economic, and moral issues of the day. On occasion this increased tension leads to conflict between courts, executives, and legislatures. The conflicts may take many forms ranging from the removal of jurisdiction to removal of judges. The Montreal meeting of the Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies seeks to bring together scholars interested in understanding more fully the nature of these threats to judicial independence and rule of law.

Paper and panel proposals devoted to the following topics would be especially welcome: Conflicts between Courts, Executives, and Legislatures; Threats to Judicial Independence; Competing Models of Judicial Review; *The Global Expansion of Judicial Power—A Retrospective*; Judicial Policymaking in Comparative Perspective; and Political Influence on Judicial Recruitment and Selection.

Proposals from scholars whose work in the field of comparative law and courts may not be directly related to the meeting's "Separation of Powers" theme are also welcome. Conference organizers anticipate several panels related to such topics as conflict resolution in non-traditional settings (such as the WTO), law and religion in different cultural contexts, comparative studies of sub-national courts, constitutional courts in emerging democracies, rights protection in parliamentary systems and constitutional democracies, etc.

Please submit your proposals by **September 15, 2007**, to the conference convenor (Professor Michael Tolley, 301 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115 USA email: m.tolley@neu.edu) and the conference host (Professor James Kelly, Department of Political Science, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8, email: james.kelly@concordia.ca).