As one of the founders of the Centre for the Study of Political Change of the University of Siena and its current Director, I warmly welcome this new initiative of the “Amici del CIRCaP” association. When in 1997 we founded CIRCaP, we had rather clear ideas about what we wanted to achieve: the consolidation of an active nucleus of political scientists in our university, the creation of more favourable institutional conditions for the promotion of first quality political science research, and the launching of new programmes of post-graduate formation (Master and PhD) with a structured teaching component and an international perspective. We were obviously much less sure about our ability to attain these goals. A little more than ten years later, we can say that our efforts have not completely failed. Of course, others will be in a better position to provide an objective evaluation of what we have done. For me, in any case, the best indicator of the success of our enterprise is the increasing number of alumni of our graduate school that have made their way in Italy and abroad, in the academic world and in other fields of activity. When I take a look at the list of the Master and PhD students that have graduated from CIRCaP, I feel genuinely proud of all the good and brilliant girls and boys that from so many different countries of the world and regions of Italy have come to Siena to study and have then begun with enthusiasm and competence their professional career. For all of us at CIRCaP to remain in touch with you, to hear about your achievements but also your problems, to meet you again either in Siena or in other places of the world, is a true reward for the efforts we have put into this enterprise. We presume that to maintain a contact with the people in Siena and with the other former students of CIRCaP may be also for you a source of personal satisfaction. That is why we saw with great pleasure the creation of the association Friends of CIRCaP and now of this newsletter. This simple instrument will be at your disposal to continue in a different form the conversations you held in the rooms and corridors of via Mattioli 10 and to develop the links of friendship that were established during the past years. We hope also that in this way the community of Alumni will increasingly become a dynamic factor in the life of CIRCaP itself, helping it to achieve more completely its mission.

Welcome then to Polichange, and ad maiora!

Maurizio Cotta
President of CIRCaP

Polichange, the Newsletter of the Friends of CIRCaP

Welcome to Polichange, the newsletter of the ‘Friends of CIRCaP’! The name chosen by the Association is a kind of tribute to the first old series of Polichange, which was the Newsletter of the CIRCaP between 1998 and 2003. It will be published twice a year. Along with the interactive Friends of CIRCaP Website, Polichange will gather information about past achievements, current activities and future projects of the association, its members and the research centre where they were trained. What are the activities of the alumni association? What is life after CIRCaP for its former students? Which career do they opt for: do they work in the academia or outside? To what extent were their years at CIRCaP a good training for their current position when they do not work in the academic field? As academics, what are their publications and their ongoing research project? All these questions will find answers in the pages of Polichange. For any query please do not hesitate to contact us: marco.brunazzo@uniitm.it / christophe.roux@univ-montp1.fr

Marco Brunazzo and Christophe Roux, editors of Polichange
Our Mission

It is made up of current and former students, as well as professors and faculty members that currently teach or have previously taught at CIRCaP for at least 12 months (either consecutively or not). At the moment the Association has about 150 members. Their voluntarily work and their contributions constitute the main source for the Association to promote the educational and scientific resources of CIRCaP and the continued participation by the Alumni in various aspects of the academic community.

By creation of this Association we have engaged in what we think is an important mission: to continue the uniqueness of CIRCaP, and the uniqueness of our experience as students/scholars in its programmes. The best way to achieve our goal is now to help others, just like ourselves, to accomplish their own mission, either as students or scholars.

But we can’t do any of this without your support. We warmly encourage you to share the vocation of the Association and to engage in its cooperative work. Your support is of vital importance, the more that you contribute, the more we can be successful. We hope that you share our sentiments about the need of such an Association and that you will do your best to contribute, either materially or intellectually, to its continued existence.

I personally look forward to be back to you in the future with many good news on the achievements of our Association!

Nicolò Conti — President of the Alumni association

HTTP://CIRCAPALUMNI.COM/

The website www.circapalumni.com is meant as a virtual showcase of the association ‘Friends of CIRCaP’ and a meeting place for its members. The structure of the website is “subject driven” and it is organized into subject categories.

Details about the aims of the association and the current list of its members are on the pages About Us and Members. All the official documents and the legal basis of the association, like the Constitution Act, Statutes and Assembly minutes stay on the page ‘Statutes’. The Activities page brings info about past events, current actions and further plans of the association. Information about how to make donations to our association are on the Fund Raising page. There you will find the details of our bank account, or as alternative the PayPal transfer money system. On the same page is the ‘hall of fame’ list with the names of the current donors.

Finally, in the Photo Gallery there are some of our pictures from different lectures, conferences and other official and casual occasions.

We are now working on the construction of a page that will make advertising of Stage offers, job placement and all possible info that our members find useful to enter (and stay) in the academic (but not only) job market. The website is continuously amendable. You are welcome to give us new ideas regarding both the design and contents of the website.

You are welcome to give us new ideas regarding both the design and contents of the website

Angela Movileanu

You are welcome to give us new ideas regarding both the design and contents of the website

Nicolò Conti — President of the Alumni association

Jean Blondel Tuesday Seminars in Political Science. The tradition continues

The Association Friends of CIRCaP is supporting the current series of Jean Blondel Tuesday Seminars in Political Science. The seminars — held during the teaching periods of the CIRCaP Graduate school — are coordinated by Luca Verzichelli. Here is the list of speakers for the Fall term 2008-2009:

- Stuart Soroka (University of Montreal)
- Paolo Bellucci (University of Siena)
- Pier Virgilio Dastoli (Direttore Rappresentanza Italiana Commissione Europea)
- Francesco Zucchini (University of Milan)
- Hans Peter Kriesi (University of Zurich)
- Amie Kreppel (University of Florida)
- Silvina Cabrera and Pierangelo Isernia (University of Siena)
- Pippo Ranci (Università Cattolica)
- Thomas Poguntke (University of Bochum and IUE, Florence)

The list of speakers for the next series of seminars (Spring 2009) will be soon published on the CIRCaP web page.
The Laudatio for Jean Blondel, Laurea Honoris Causa at the University of Siena

Here we publish the laudatio pronounced by Prof. Maurizio Cotta before the award of the Laurea Honoris Causa in Political Science from the University of Siena to Prof. Jean Blondel, on October 9, 2008. The title of the Lectio Magistralis given by Jean Blondel was Personalisation of leadership: parties and the citizens.

The University of Siena has established during more than a decade with this prestigious scholar has enabled me to familiarise with the human and scientific qualities of Jean Blondel and to deeply appreciate them.

In this short speech I will touch upon the solid grounds for this proposal, made by the Faculty of Political Sciences, and willingly accepted by both our university and the Italian Minister of University, to confer upon Jean Blondel the honorary degree we are celebrating today.

Jean Blondel as one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars of democratic politics and of some of its crucial mechanisms, Blondel as an indefatigable promoter of political science studies and of the institutions devoted to sustaining their development; Blondel as a generous friend and collaborator of the university of Siena: these are the three aspects that I will briefly illustrate.

Whoever reads Blondel's curriculum vitae and list of publications will be truly astonished by the sheer quantity and even more by the continuity of his research work during more than fifty years. The number of books written entirely by himself or co-authored and edited with other scholars, the articles published in international journals show with clear evidence that his passion for the study of politics has known no distraction. And, I am quite sure, that given Blondel's young and vigorous age of seventy nine, this list of publications which started with a book on the political life of the Brazilian State of Paraiba will grow even longer in the next years.

Among the variety of topics covered in his publications, it is easy to identify a number of dominating themes. The interest for the central institutions and for the crucial actors of democracy has without doubts been the guiding thread of the research work conducted by Blondel. After a first comparative book on representative assemblies (Comparative Legislatures, 1973) Blondel increasingly directed his attention to the study of executives. Even when political scientists (under the influence perhaps of some sort of latent "populistic" leaning) privileged the study of elections and parliaments (and in general of the bottom-up perspective in democracy) he had no doubts about the importance of studying the governmental institutions, their structure, functioning and components for a better understanding of the real working of contemporary democracies. To pursue this line of research, besides his own personal efforts, he has not spared his energy to create and mobilise collective research groups.
Over the years a whole series of books have been produced in this way: from The Organisation of Governments of 1982 to Cabinets in Western Europe edited together with Ferdinand Müller Rommel, to Party and Government of 1996, to The Nature of Party Government of 2000, until the recent Governing New European Democracies of 2007 edited once more with F. Müller Rommel and Daria Malova. In different ways all these works have attempted to analyze governments from perspectives that are both sound and innovative. Rather than studying the executives, as it is more usual, in their relationship with electoral competition, and concentrating on the processes of government formation and government termination these books have tried to open up the black box of the government itself and to understand its internal mechanisms. In some of these studies he has proposed a particularly innovative approach to the study of party/government relations by suggesting to analyze the less known face of this relationship, i.e. the impact of the executives upon their supporting parties.

Strictly connected with the study of governments is the second field of research dear to Blondel, the study of leaders, and of the role of leadership in democratic politics. Closer to the Schumpeterian and Sartorian interpretations of democracy, than to the tendency to reduce democracy to its horizontal dimension Blondel has never shared the view that leaders and leadership are irrelevant factors in this regime and has repeatedly approached this theme in his research work as can be seen in the books such as World Leaders of 1980, Political Leadership of 1987 and The Profession of Government Minister in Western Europe of 1997.

In recent years this interest for the role of leaders in governmental institutions (and for the institutional conditions favouring or limiting the exercise of leadership) has lead him to study the functioning of presidential systems in Latin America. In doing so he contributed to new threads of research such as the one concerning the relationship between the president and his cabinet.

It is not a coincidence that his doctoral lecture will be devoted to the theme of leadership and its study in political science, as we will soon be able to hear about it. Throughout his life Blondel has never abandoned this "mission" which has always walked hand in hand with his devotion to research. He started in the 1960s by setting up the Department of Government at the University of Essex which soon acquired a national and European position of leadership in the field of political science and which today maintains in its DNA much of the original imprint given by Blondel. His action subsequently gained a transnational dimension with his leading role (together with other important figures of European political science such as Hans Daalder, Stein Rokkan, Rudolf Wilder- mann) in the conception, foundation and development of the EPR (the European Consortium for Political Research). Of this institutional masterpiece of European political science he was the first director in the crucial phase of its institutionalisation. As European political scientists well know, the role of this institution which today connects hundreds of departments throughout the continent, in overcoming the parochialism of national political science communities, defining new standards of scientific research, and providing instruments for the socialization and training of young scholars, can hardly be underestimated. Interestingly enough the true Europeanisation of political science on this side of the Atlantic has been achieved through a deliberate attempt to transplant into Europe the best academic practices of American political science. This effort however was not the end of Blondel's fight for the progress of political science. Having left for some time now his active role in EPR he has not been afraid of taking up the challenge of Asian political science. Some years ago he decided to engage his friends and colleagues from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, etc., into starting an Asian Consortium for Political Research which should repeat the achievements of the European organisation. I have had the privilege to watch him at work in one of the first meetings devoted to this effort and I was truly astonished by the boldness of his intuition and by the unrelenting energy he put into it.
It will take some time, when one considers the very special political and cultural conditions of Asia, to see if this Asian enterprise will be able to match the results of the European one, but the beginning in itself is a true milestone.

We reach now the third point: Jean Blondel as a generous friend of the University of Siena.

By the mid-1980s the long academic career of Blondel takes an Italian turn. In 1985 the European University Institute of Fiesole, which is represented here by its president professor Yves Mény, gave its chair in comparative politics to Blondel. From this moment, and thanks to a series of research projects on the comparative study of European cabinets, there began my personal acquaintance and research collaboration with him. From this personal relationship it was soon possible to develop a more institutional link with the University of Siena. Indeed Blondel was soon collaborating with this small group of Sienese political scientists who were engaged in an attempt (still a bit uncertain in its goals and in its instruments) to create a stronger unit of research and advanced training in the field of political science. As his work at the EUI, already intense, could not exhaust his energies he immediately made himself available to help this new enterprise with his long academic experience, his ideas and much appreciated encouragements. I cannot go here over all the details of this collaboration but it is easy for me to say that, if today the University of Siena has a research unit in the field of political science which has acquired some national and international reputation and a well established graduate school offering both a master and a PhD programme, this owes very much to the generous efforts of Jean Blondel who over the past years has never ceased to come to Siena to teach, talk with graduate students, oversee their dissertations, liaise with foreign scholars, and to stimulate us to go further.

I must remember also that when Jean and his wife Tess decided, to reduce their time in Italy and decided to move to a smaller apartment, he donated a large part of his rich collection of books to the “Circolo Giuridico” library of the University of Siena.

Before concluding I would like to say a few more words that do not specifically concern any of the above mentioned points but touch upon something which is even more important and that has to do with Jean Blondel’s personality. Given my age and having travelled a bit I have had the privilege to meet many of the most important and influential figures in the international political science arena throughout the last decades. I do not want, here, to provide any kind of ranking, but I must say that I have been particularly struck by the traits that make Blondel a very special person. His absolute dedication to the scientific mission, his unrelenting determination in following the goals he has set to himself, but at the same time his simplicity and complete lack of academic pompousness and the almost unlimited generosity toward younger scholars make him really unique on the international political science scene.

For all these reasons, I believe that by honouring professor Jean Blondel with this degree the University of Siena honours itself at the same time for having established such a close relationship with an extraordinary personality.

Maurizio Cotta
Professor of Political Science at the University of Siena

A research project supported by the association

In the course of 2008 the association has supported a research on Public Opinion and Foreign Policy that has received a grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The research has been coordinated by Pierangelo Isernia. On our web page it is available the report in italian.
They hold a PhD in Comparative European Politics from the CIRCaP at the University of Siena

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>2004 - La politica di coesione in Europa. Esiti divergenti in Francia e in Italia</td>
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<td>Niccolò Conti</td>
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<td>Alessia Donà</td>
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<td>2004 - L'europa azzeccata alla politica per la parità di genere. Un'analisi comparata di Italia e Regno Unito</td>
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<td>Giovanna Antonio Fois</td>
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<td>Filippo Tronconi</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Caterina Carta</td>
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<td>2005 - Evolution of the COR: An Experienced Institution Building</td>
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<td>Daniel Erler</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Maria Eugenia Iocco</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>Diletta Latini</td>
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<td>2005 - Liberare e la guerra. Pressioni esterne e contrappesi nazionali all'uso della forza</td>
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<td>Vincenzo Mammoloni</td>
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<td>Catherine Moury</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2005 - Coalition Government and Party's Mandate: Is the Government Bound by the Coalition Agreement?</td>
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<td>Giorgia Nesti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2005 - Come funziona una politica europea. Interessi, leadership e conoscenze nella politica della società dell'informazione</td>
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<td>Cammina Petrarca</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2005 - I valori del Neo-Conservatorismo in Italia e Gran Bretagna</td>
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<td>Christophe Roux</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>2005 - Les ‘îles sœurs’. Un esempio di gis qui accompagnano la contestazione nazionale in Francia e in Sardegna</td>
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<td>Daniela Scudellì</td>
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<td>Ebru Canan</td>
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<td>Nicoletta Di Sotto</td>
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<td>Weiqing Song</td>
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<td>Marcello Caraomingo</td>
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History file

They hold the Master in Politics in Europe from the CIRCaP at the University of Siena

1999-2000: Paolo Del Chiappa, Federica Forzoni, Maria Grazia Galantino, Tiziana Gatti, Petra Grabner, Marco Guiggi, Massimiliano Lorenzi, Elena Martin, Paolo Zanotto, Marco Brunazzo, Nicolò Conti

2000-2001: Ilaria Cavicchioli, Sandra Ferrari, Esra Ozagca, Maria Perrotta, Sergio Vasarri, Isik Gurleyen, Catherine Moury

2001-2002: Alberto Acuto, Silvia Arzilli, Gaspare Carulli, Louis Vincent Celentano, Timothy Andrew Chafos, Bahar Funda Gultekin, Lorenzo Striuli, Celine Vivier


2005-2006: Senay Gullu, Maria Luisa Esposito, Francesco Olmistrioni, Chiara Tronnolone

2006-2007: Stefania Galatolo, Aurore Goethals, Ezio Saponari, Aris Tolios

2007-2008: David Baroni, Paolo De Maria, Arjan Dyrmishi, Zafer Kizilkaya, Nina Liljeqvist, Ramona Macovei, Rossella Borri

The CIRCaP Graduate School 2008—2009

Here are the names of the students attending the courses of the Graduate School this year:

**PhD in Comparative European Politics**

Rossella Borri, Gaetano Cadenzo, Maxim Chernyshev, Lamis El Muhtaseb, Diego Garzia, Jo-Ying (Vittoria) Lee, Fabio Leone, Martino Rubal Maseda, Chiara Toniato.

**Master Politics in Europe**

Marsela Bako, Marco Caniglia, Fabio Fasoli, Buralis Ilyas, Natalie Bianca Lupini, Stefano Aurelio Quadro, Pasqualina Smaldore, Cigdem Tuncer,
All the CIRCaP alumni are warmly invited to collaborate to the following issues of Polichange. We want to make of this newsletter your voice. The voice of dozens CIRCaP Alumni scattered all along Europe and beyond.

You can reach us by e-mail and send us ideas, comments and criticisms. But we would also ask you to give us a more concrete contribution: we are looking for materials and short articles describing your ongoing projects, your current work and on your experiences in academic life as well as in other sectors.

Also, we want to create an up-to-date address book to keep all of you in touch, and a detailed data-set concerning the job placement experiences and the publications of the CIRCaP alumni. Your help will be decisive.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

The editorial board of POLICHANGE

Send us your news!
Please send us your news, your coordinates and your photos for our archives

POLICHANGE
The NEWSLETTER of the Friends of CIRCaP
Editors
Marco Brunazzo (marco.brunazzo@unitn.it)
Christophe Roux (christophe.roux@univ-montp1.fr)
Desktop Publishing
Hydra Designers

Recent Publications from the Alumni


Ozgehan SENYUVA. Public Support for European Integration and Public Support for Turkish Membership. Ankara Universiteleri Basitevi, 2008.
