

# Governance-Corner

## ■ Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

### EGPA Study Group on Regional and Local Government

“*Local and Regional Public Sector Reform in a Time of Crisis: Drivers, Stakeholders and Impacts of Modernization from a European Comparative*”, from 11 until 13 September 2013, Edinburgh, UK.

Organizers: Sabine Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam; Martin Laffin, Queen Mary University of London; Ellen Wayenberg, University College Ghent and Ghent University.

Context: The workshop will focus on European local and regional governments which find themselves in a period of increased reform activity. The participants will present findings on local and regional public sector reforms in particular European countries and/or from a cross-country comparative perspective. The focus will be on territorial and functional reforms and the direction of change (municipal amalgamations, decentralization, centralization) that have been largely fuelled by austerity measures. The organizers emphasize the pressing need for comparative research and for developing not just theoretical understanding of contemporary changes. More information about the conference can be found via: <http://www.iias-iisa.org/egpa/e/conferences/upcoming/Pages/default.aspx>

### Gemeinsame Drei-Länder-Tagung der Deutschen Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (DVPW), der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Politikwissenschaft (ÖGPW) und der Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft (SVPW)

*Politik der Vielfalt*, vom 19. bis 21. September 2013 in Innsbruck

Die diesjährige 3-Länder-Tagung beschäftigt sich mit den Antworten der Politik und der Politikwissenschaft auf die wachsende Vielfalt unserer Gesellschaft. Wie reagieren demokratische Staaten und Institutionen auf die zunehmende kulturelle, ethnische Vielfalt und die gestiegene Mobilität der Bevölkerung? Welche neuen politischen Strukturen und Mechanismen werden entwickelt, um den erhöhten Koordinationsbedarf zwischen Politikfeldern und unterschiedlichen politischen Arenen zu bewältigen? Welche neuen Strategien und Regierungsweisen werden erprobt, um die Vielfalt an Interessen und die gestiegene Interdependenz zwischen lokalen, nationalen und globalen Entwicklungen in den Griff zu bekommen? »Politik der Vielfalt« bietet ein Forum, um sich der hier skizzierten aktuellen Herausforderungen anzunehmen. Auf der Tagung sollen die neuesten Forschungsansätze und -ergebnisse präsentiert und zur Diskussion gestellt werden. Weitere Informationen unter <http://www.oegpw.at/newwebsite/innsbruck-2013/startseite/>

### School of Public Policy, Central European University, Budapest.

*Migration Leaders Policy Course*, Executive Program, from 30 September until 4 October 2013.

The executive course will offer insights into the global structural changes that affect migration flows and highlight key policy decision points. It will allow policy directors, senior analysts as well as operational managers to explore and discuss these issues in a confidential setting with peers facing similar challenges. More information about the conference can be found via:

<http://spp.ceu.hu/events/2013-09-30/migration-leaders-policy-course>

### International Social Science Council (ISSC), World Social Science Forum.

*Social Transformations and the Digital Age*, from 13-15 October in Montréal, Canada.

The World Social Science Forum series are occasions to demonstrate the global presence and authority of social science. The Forums offer a cross-disciplinary and cross-regional platform for social scientists to exchange ideas on new approaches to global priority problems. They provide an occasion for scrutinizing conceptual frameworks and examining established practices. This year's forum focuses on the role of social transformation in a digital age. Digital technologies have been a constant news focus in recent years most notably in the form of social media, and it has also become a major focus of social research. Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia and Wikileaks are lauded for their capacity to harness people's creativity and knowledge, and for their potential to challenge traditional hierarchies in politics, science, and the media. Some more critical voices question the validity of such claims, pointing to the dangers of hoax, misinformation, dependency, narcissism, and the loss of privacy. Yet digital technologies reach far beyond the current social media proliferation: in the form of computers and the networks enabling them to communicate with one another they have been in use for decades, and have affected nearly all areas of society, politics, and the economy. During the 2013 World Social Science Forum in Montréal, scholars from across the disciplines and across the world will come together to address the ways in which digital technologies are being developed and used. Insights from all disciplines are required to understand these complex changes. More information is available via <http://wssf2013.org/>.

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