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# Cocta News

## COCTA Policy: National and Regional Meetings

COCTA encourages its members to organize panels and present papers on conceptual and terminological problems of the social sciences at whatever national and regional meetings they may have access to. However, it is important to maintain coherence and communication among members that notice of these activities be circulated to all members via the *COCTA News*. Moreover, it is a COCTA policy to encourage members to distribute copies of their papers to others who share their interest. That can be accomplished by including in the *COCTA News* information about each paper and the author's address so that interested members may write directly to solicit copies. Members should remember that this standing invitation is based on the premise that the recipients of papers undertake to read them and send their comments directly to authors, thereby facilitating substantive dialogue and helping authors to improve the quality of their final published work. Anyone organizing panels at a national or regional conference of any society or association should, therefore, inform the authors of papers prepared for this purpose that they may well receive requests for copies, according to this COCTA policy. Of course, it is also important to provide full information about these activities to the COCTA chairperson and the *COCTA News* editor.

## I.P.S.A. Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 9–14 August 1982

COCTA Vice President, George J. Graham, Jr. has announced that the theme, "‘Technology’ in Political Analysis" will be the focus of the COCTA-sponsored panels at the forthcoming IPSA world congress in Rio de Janeiro. Leading up to these presentations, a set of four panel sessions were carried out at the meeting of the American Political Science Association in New York, on September 4. The theme and rationale of this exercise is explained in the following statement by Professor Graham:

### *‘Technology’ in Political Analysis*

The difficulties entailed in assessing the effects of technology in a variety of political contexts have been increased by the added difficulties of bringing to precision the concept of technology itself. Meanings range from intentionally abstract conceptions employed to capture a very vague but important phenomenon to very precise definitions which fail to capture the richness of theoretical nuance surrounding the conception. There are benefits for particular analytic and theoretical purposes made possible by either approach to the phenomenon, but an unintended consequence of employing the term to fit one's immediate needs is that it becomes most difficult to relate the results of analyses within one subfield of political science or sociology, not to mention the increased difficulty entailed in attempting to relate the

understandings from all of the subfields to political and social theory as a whole. Current definitions have their uses, but it seems worthwhile to attempt to deal with current analyses of ‘technology’ in society with the end in mind of at least collating the fund of knowledge being assembled in various packages whose contents are assigned by a diversity of particular meanings of ‘technology’. Therefore two series of exploratory panels are currently being organized by the Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis of the International Political Science Association; the first series will be presented at the 1981 American Political Science Association Meetings in New York; the second, at the 1982 International Political Science Association Congress in Rio de Janeiro. Panels will be organized around the *problem* of technology as it affects subfields of political science (theoretical, comparative, international, and rational analyses) with participants selected from among those whose research or theoretical analyses focus on the problem. The underlying questions to be addressed concern the meaning of ‘technology’ and how one might best improve our definitions and understandings in order to improve research and theoretical development in the subfields. Central to the efforts, of course, will be the desire to integrate better what is known and knowable about technology and its causes and effects in the political and social systems.

The first round of panels were exploratory in tone; the second, will present the results of our two-year exploration into the most eligible ways of defining the meaning of ‘technology’ for theoretical analysis and research. Ideally the participants at the two conferences will overlap and, in the months between the sessions, develop regular communications for cross-fertilization among the participating scholars. To be successful, theorists and researchers must work together in each group.

Additional information about plans for the COCTA panels at the Rio Congress may be secured directly from Professor Graham at the Political Science Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. 37235, U.S.A.

## COCTA Panels at APSA Conference, New York

The COCTA sponsored panels held on Sept. 5, 1981 and organized by George J. Graham, Vanderbilt University under the general theme: Problems in Conceptualizing ‘Technology’ were concerned with the following presentations:

*Panel 1* – W. Barrett: Conceptual problems with the concept ‘Technology’ in philosophy. G.J. Graham: Conceptual problems with the concept ‘Technology’ in political theory. – Chair: W.C. Harvard; Respondents: T.L. Thorson, W.T. Bluhm.

*Panel 2* – J.C. Wahlke: ‘Technology’ in the study of American politics. Chair: S. Hines; Repondent: H. Eulau.

*Panel 3* – T. Laporte: Institutional strains and ‘technology’: lessons from the Californian context. – Chair: M. Rajan Menon; Respondents: C.B. Powell, G. Sartori.

*Panel 4* – R. Ashley: ‘Technology’ in international studies. Chair: J. Oneal; Respondent: J. Ruggie.

Members interested in securing copies of these papers may write directly to their authors who will share copies, if available, in exchange for comments.

Professor William Barrett  
34 Hurwood Avenue  
North Terrytown, New York 10591

Professor William C. Havard (also Professors Graham, Menon, and Oneal)  
Department of Political Science  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tennessee 37235

Professor Thomas Thorson  
Department of Political Science  
Indiana University at South Bend  
South Bend, Indiana 46615

Professor Samuel Hines  
Department of Political Science  
The College of Charleston  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Professor John C. Wahlke  
Department of Political Science  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Professor Heinz Eulau  
Department of Political Science  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305

Professor Todd Laporte  
Institute of Governmental Studies  
University of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, California 94720

Professor G. Bingham Powell  
Department of Political Science  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York 14627

Professor Giovanni Sartori  
Department of Political Science  
Columbia University  
New York, New York 10027

Professor Richard Ashley  
Department of Political Science  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California 90007

Professor John Ruggie  
Institute of War and Peace  
Columbia University  
New York, New York 10027

### Organizational Matters

COCTA began and has evolved its activities in a highly informal way, starting as an appointed committee of the International Political Science Association, then gaining recognition as a research committee of the International Sociological Association, and a standing committee of the International Social Science Council. Interested persons were freely invited to become "members" or to have their names added to the COCTA mailing list. With the support of *International Classification*, we have now launched the publication of *COCTA News* three times a year. Through the ISSC, we have evolved relationships with UNESCO's INTERCONCEPT pilot project, with

the terminological committee of the ISO, and with member associations of the ISSC. In order to administer all these relationships in a more orderly way, it has clearly become necessary to adopt some ground rules in the form of a charter, and to institutionalize our operations, in as simple a form as conditions permit.

To start with, we have decided to ask our "members" to enhance the status of Board members by "electing" them to office — thereby converting from an appointed to an officially elected Board. This process has been started with the election by COCTA members who are also ISA members of three persons: Professors Henry Teune, Alberto Marradi, and Jonathan Pool. Those COCTA members who belong to IPSA have now been asked to vote on four nominees: Professors George Graham, Giovanni Sartori (the first chairman of COCTA), Jan-Erik Lane, and Gunnar Sjoblom. Other members will be designated by the ISSC. This composite elected Board will then be the authoritative decision-making body of COCTA, electing all of the administrative officers of the Committee. As a result of such Board elections, Fred Riggs is serving as COCTA president, George Graham as vice-president for IPSA relations, Henry Teune as vice-president for ISA relations, and Jan-Erik Lane as secretary-treasurer. Lane has also accepted responsibility for the preparation of future issues of *COCTA News*, which Riggs has edited on an ad hoc basis up to now.

Board members elected by the ISA and IPSA constituency, no doubt, have a special responsibility for activities relating to their host association. In addition to Teune's role as coordinator of ISA relations, Marradi has agreed to provide liaison with the ISA committee on research methodology, and Pool has been asked to serve a similar function with the research committee on sociolinguistics. All Board members, however, will share an over-all responsibility for the development of COCTA programs and policies.

To provide for circulation of Board memberships, new members will be nominated for future elections, and existing members will rotate off. A more detailed plan will be announced by the Board at a later time. Meanwhile it is necessary to institutionalize membership, and this process starts promptly as our new Secretary/Treasurer initiates the distribution of notices to members calling upon them to pay dues. Only those who pay dues will be entitled to vote in future elections. A charge of U.S. \$ 5.00 per year has been authorized by the Board, to be augmented by the payment of a second \$ 5.00 for those who wish to have reprints of *COCTA News* mailed to them directly. By special arrangement, we anticipate that a supplementary mailing list for liaison officers, association officials, and others with whom COCTA needs to maintain contact, will be established on a complimentary basis — but only those who pay dues will be entitled to vote in COCTA elections. All these policies, as they evolve in practice, will be given more definite form in the new COCTA charter, when it is finalized.

### ISSC Relations

Because of its special complexity, due to inter-organizational activities, COCTA will also need a sub-committee

on ISSC-related programs. This committee is being formed to facilitate the following work: (1) relations with UNESCO, especially its INTERCONCEPT pilot project and follow-up programs, such as the "INTERMIN" scheme, proposed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; (2) relations with ISO/TC 37 on terminology and standards (3) the planning of a pilot glossary project on "ethnicity" in accordance with decisions made at the COCTA meeting in Bielefeld – reported in the previous issue of *COCTA News*, and (4) relations with the member associations of the ISSC. Each of these associations of the ISSC. Each of these associations has been asked to designate an official liaison officer. As a group, these officers form a network through whom COCTA experience, especially in the design of classified heuristic interactive glossaries, can be made available to research committees or special interest group that may be interested. Further details on this approach to the design and utilization of glossaries to facilitate the recognition and terming of new concepts, can be secured from the *INTERCONCEPT Report: A new paradigm for solving the terminology problems of the social sciences*. The report, which was prepared by Fred Riggs, in consultation with members of the INTERCONCEPT ad hoc committee established by UNESCO, includes an historical introduction, followed by a discussion of the special features and role of an "INTERCONCEPT glossary" – by contrast with the functions and structure of dictionaries, thesauri, and standardized vocabularies. Copies of this document, which is no. 47 in its series of *Reports and papers in the social sciences*, may be secured from the *Social Science Documentation Centre*, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, attention Ms. Ester Ronquillo.

The CONTA conference, held in Bielefeld, 24–27 May, 1981, as reported in our previous issue, has enabled us to pull these many ISSC-related functions into perspective. The ISSC associations that have named liaison officers for COCTA are as follows:

**IES: International Economic Assn.**

Prof. Fritz Machlup  
Dept of Economics  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N.J. 08540, USA

**IFSSO: International Federation of Social Science Organizations**

Professor A. Polikarov  
Bd Skobelev 46  
1606 Sofia, Bulgaria

**IGU: International Geographical Union**

Professor Ph. Pinchemel  
Institut de Geographie  
191 rue Saint-Jacques  
75005 Paris, France

**IIAS: International Institute for Administrative Sciences**

Mr. Yves Chapel  
IIAS Director of Research  
25 rue de la Charité  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

**IPRS: International Peace Research Association**

Prof. K.P. Misra

School of International Studies  
Centre for International Politics and Organization  
New Mehrauli Road  
New Delhi 110067, India

Professor K. Yamakawa  
Dept. of Law, Kansai University  
3-3-35 Yamatecho, Suita  
Osaka, 56400 Japan

Dr. Håkan Wiberg  
10 Beechwood Ave.  
Brighton BN1 8EE, Great Britain

**IPSA: International Political Science Association**

Professor George J. Graham, Jr.  
Dept. of Political Science  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, Tenn. 37235

**ISA: International Sociological Assn.**

Professor Henry Teune  
Political Science Dept.  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104, U.S.A.

**IUAES: International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences**

Prof. Maurice Godelier  
Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, 1'EHESS  
11 Place Marcelin-Berthelot  
75231 Paris CEDEX 05, France

**IUPS: International Union of Psychological Sciences**

Professor Joseph Nuttin  
Departement Psychologie  
Universiteit te Leuven  
Tiense Straat 104  
Leuven, Belgium  
Professor Bernard Singer  
Department of Psychology  
University of Reading  
Building 3, Early Gate, Whiteknights  
Reading RG6 2AL, United Kingdom

**IUSSP: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population**

Mr. Guillermo A. Maccio  
CELADE  
Casilla 91  
Santiago, Chile  
Professor Etienne van de Walle  
Population Studies Center  
University of Pennsylvania  
3718 Locust Walk CR  
Philadelphia, PA 19174

**Information from COCTA Members**

Members are encouraged to report on activities, especially research and other projects, relevant to the Committee's central concerns. Among reports received are the following:

*Jan-Erik Lane*, Department of Political Science, University of Umea, S-901 87 Umea, Sweden, has completed

work on a study called, "Principles of Autonomy," which has been accepted for publication in *Scandinavian Political Studies*. It contains, in addition to a discussion of the meaning of 'autonomy,' a more detailed analysis of the significance of autonomy for political systems. Jan-Erik has been elected secretary/treasurer of COCTA, and will soon be in touch with all members. He is also assuming responsibility for editing future issues of *COCTA News*, for which we are all very grateful — please help him improve the quality of future issues by sending him your news notes from now on.

*Felix E. Oppenheim*, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01002, USA, announces the publication of his book, *Political Concepts: A Reconstruction* (University of Chicago Press, 1981. \$ 22.00, in hardcover — with a paper back edition to follow). Oppenheim pulls together a lifetime's work in this collection which analyzes such terms as "influence," "power", "freedom" "egalitarianism," "self-interest," and "public interest." He starts with "... explicative definitions that must in certain cases deviate from ordinary language in order to avoid its ambiguities and valuational overtones." The work is relevant to major controversies such as: "the reconstructionist vs. ordinary-language approach, the separability vs. inseparability of 'facts' and 'values,' and causal vs. interpretative models of human action and political interaction." Prof. Oppenheim was one of the original members and supporters of COCTA — his new book is a welcome contribution.

*Prof. Guy Rondeau*, Department de langues et linguistique, Faculté des Lettres, Université Laval, Quebec, G1K 7P4, Canada, announces the publication of his *Introduction à la terminologie* (Montreal, Centre Educatif et Culturel. Can. \$ 18.00) Prof. Rondeau teaches "Terminology" and is a pioneer in this field. His book is a comprehensive text on the subject, starting with a general discussion and definition of terms, the relation of documentation to terminology, methods of terminological work, standardization, neologisms, and terminology banks. He took the lead in establishing the "Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche scientifique et appliquée en terminologie" (GIRSTERM), which promotes research and publications in the field of terminology, and sponsors conferences, colloquia, and related activities. Further information may be secured upon request.

*Gunnar Sjöblom*, Mollevangsvägen 31, S-222 40 Lund, Sweden, has published an essay entitled "The Operational Code Approach," containing an analysis of the concept of an "operational code" as it has been developed by A.L. George and O. Holsti. Sjöblom, who is a member of the COCTA Board, points out that his essay includes a discussion of how the OC concept may be "a fruitful device in the study of political belief systems."

*David A. Baldwin*, Dartmouth College, Department of Government, Silsby Hall, Hannover, N.H. 03755, USA, has published an article on "Interdependence and power: A conceptual analysis" (*International Organization* 34.4. Autumn 1980, pp. 471–506) He provides an historical account of the evolution of various conceptualizations of "interdependence" of "dependency" and then shows how, in much recent writing, earlier work has been ignored, leading to much lost energy and failure to cumulate knowledge. He is willing to send reprints to COCTA

members, on request, as also an earlier article, "Power and social exchange," *American Political Science Review*, Dec. 1978.

*Ralph Adam*, University Library, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB, England is willing to send members his "Terminology and the Social Sciences: A Case Study", which appeared in *Communication and Cognition*, Vol. 8, no. 1 (1975) pp. 3–14.

*Alberto Madella*, via Brenta 37, 96100 Siracusa, Italy, writes that he is working on a study of the relationships between ethnomethodology and structural linguistics. He says that his interests are strongly interdisciplinary with an emphasis on the social formation of concepts.

*Dr. Rolf Klima*, Universität Bielefeld, Fakultät für Soziologie, Postfach 8640, Bielefeld 1, W. Germany, is involved in a project to revise the *Lexikon zur Soziologie* (Westdeutscher Verlag, Opladen) which contains definitions of some 7000 concepts. He seeks help in the systematic analysis of sociological concepts, including problems relating to their completeness and interrelationships. Others involved in this project are Werner Fuchs, Rüdiger Lautmann, Otthein Rammstedt, and Hanns Wienold.

*Karl Aun* is the author of "A critique of the 'nation-state'" which appears in *Unity and Diversity*, edited by N.A. Nyiri and T. Miljan, (Waterloo, Ont.: Wilfried Laurier University Press, 1980). This essay argues that "nation-state" is a misnomer and a contradiction in terms, and that the interchangeable use of "state" and "nation" have caused terminological and conceptual "fusion and confusion."

*Fred Riggs* has been seeking to establish stronger links with lexicographers whose expertise may be utilized — he hopes — in the strengthening of COCTA's activities. He recently completed the drafting of an essay for possible publication in a lexicographical journal, and submits this summarizing statement:

#### *CONCEPTS AND TERMS: A Terminological Exercise in Lexicography*

Fourteen basic concepts determine the selection and treatment of "words" (lexical units, or headwords) analyzed in dictionary entries. There is no recognized term for one of these concepts, and another can only be named "multivocally" (its term has more than one meaning in lexicography). Of the 12 that can be named "univocally" (they have terms with only one meaning in lexicography) 5 have terms that can be found in Webster's Third International Dictionary (W3) and the remaining 7 can be named unequivocally only by technical neologisms — terms found in glossaries of linguistics or textbooks on lexicography, but not in W3. A total of 57 terms found in W3 or in technical glossaries and texts are used to designate the 13 named concepts, of which 31 are univocal and 26 are multivocal. Of the 31 univocal terms, only 9 can be found in Webster's dictionary with a sense definition for the relevant concept, while the remaining 22 terms are found only in technical glossaries or texts. One concept has 15 terms, none of which have been lexiconized; another has 7 terms, of which four may be found in W3.

The implications of these data for conceptual and terminological analysis are spelled out in a paper by Fred

W. Riggs entitled "Fourteen Concepts used in Lexicography: A Study in Terminology," now in draft form. Emphasis is placed on the complementarity of lexicography and terminology: the former starting with words and analyzing their senses; the latter beginning with concepts and identifying their terms. Among the confusing words in use is 'glossary' – not one of the 14 – which typically refers to a simplified kind of dictionary, i.e. it arranges terms alphabetically and gives definitions for each – often identifying two or more concepts designated by a term. By contrast a glossary that is classified, heuristic, and interactive uses an inverted format: each record starts with a defining text that identifies a concept. It then lists the various terms, univocal and multi-vocal, lexiconized and neologic, that can be used, in various contexts, to designate the defined concept.

Stress is placed on a unique function of such glossaries: namely they help writers determine whether needed concepts which they think are new are indeed new; and if they are new, they facilitate the specification of one or more acceptable terms for each. By contrast, dictionaries and ordinary alphabetized glossaries serve mainly to help readers interpret texts that have already been written, and to retrieve information contained in them. A copy of the Riggs paper is available from the author to anyone who promises to read it and to send comments in exchange. Please write him at Political Science Department, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA.

Riggs has also published a short article entitled, "Special languages and terminology" in the *Sociolinguistics Newsletter*, Vol. XI, no. 2 (Fall/Winter) 1980, pp. 18–22. This organ of the ISA Research Committee on Sociolinguistics may be of interest to many COCTA members. Copies of the Riggs reprint may also be secured on request.

*The Social Research Methods Documentation Centre* (SRM) has been established at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to provide information about all publications that treat methodological problems in social research, including problems of concept formation and definition. The Centre seeks to broaden its international network of users and collaborators, and invites COCTA members to write for further information, to Drs. G.W. Kantebeen, SRM, Erasmus University. Documents are indexed for subsequent retrieval according to a controlled vocabulary (thesaurus) that contains a set of rubrics relating to "concepts" which are explained as follows: the general category B.4 covers problems of "concept formation.: B.41 elaborates types of concepts. "The latter category precedes the whole matter of translating into empirical language, called operationalization (B. 421), because that is dominated by the difference between observational and theoretical concepts. For the former the operationalization is achieved, roughly speaking, by defining the concepts (B.421.1), for the latter, by selecting indicators (B.421.2). Operationalization is in fact one way of specifying the meaning of concepts (B.42), namely by linking concepts with corresponding observable phenomena. Typology construction (B.422), and more specifically the construction and reduction of typologies, may actually be viewed as another way of specifying the meaning of concepts, in this case by linking concepts in a theoretical context with other con-

cepts. Evidently, all subcategories of B.4 are closely related with theory formation (A.11)." This brief excerpt should give an impression of the scope of material covered by this element in the SRM's bibliographic and documentation services.

*Terminological Translation into Basque Language.* Planning for the establishment of a university in which instruction will be offered in the Basque language, with English, French, Spanish and German equivalent terms. Fifteen dictionaries will be published, of which four are completed. Terms and definitions are taken, initially, from materials published in Euskera, supplemented by data drawn from foreign language dictionaries. This often leads to the invention of new terms in Euskera for the concepts defined in foreign sources. The possibility of utilizing computer facilities, and of standardizing terms, is being investigated. Further information can be secured by writing Joseba Intxausti, Director, UZEI, 8 Esterlines, San Sebastian, Guipuzcoa, The Basque Country, Spain.

### INFOTERM

Through the International Social Science Council COCTA serves as a liaison member of the technical committee on terminology of the International Standards Organization (ISO/TC37), which is administered through the UNESCO-sponsored clearing house on terminological activities (INFOTERM) in Vienna. Since *INFOTERM News* is published in *International Classification*, COCTA members may secure full details by consulting this companion to *COCTA News*.

Readers of *COCTA News* will be interested to know that INFOTERM has recently published its "Series 6," entitled, "Theoretical and methodological problems of terminology." This 600 page volume (K.G. Saur, 1981) contains the texts, in English and Russian, with some French originals, of papers presented at the conference held in Moscow, 27–30 November 1979, at the Gosstandart, VNIKI. VNIKI serves as the secretariat of subcommittee 1 of TC 37, on "principles of terminology." Co-sponsors of the conference were INFOTERM and the commission on terminology of the International Association for Applied Linguistics (AILA). Western readers will find this collection of special interest because it contains English translations of many papers by Soviet experts that provide an introduction to the terminological methods and philosophy normally available only to those who read Russian language materials.

COCTA members should also know that INFOTERM has published (K.G. Saur) its *International Bibliography of Standardized Vocabularies*. This 540 page document, available for DM 148, provides information about a large number of standardized technical vocabularies that have been compiled and promulgated by many specialist bodies, largely in the fields of technology and the hard sciences. So far, such vocabularies have scarcely appeared in any of the social sciences. This work should be in reference libraries, if not in the personal possession of COCTA members. The data presented in this compilation was collected at INFOTERM – it provides information about automated terminology banks, as well as published bibliographies, and will be augmented from time to time with updating supplements.