

# EuParl.net Newsletter

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European Information and  
Research Network on  
Parliamentary History

Autumn/Winter 2018

## Dear readers,

2018 was a year of great anniversaries. The end of the First World War in 1918, the collapse of great empires and establishment of new states in Europe, many with universal suffrage. The Munich Agreement of 1938. Completion of the Eastern Bloc and Iron Curtain in 1948. Protests, reforms and revolutions of 1968.

Commemorative events and celebrations invoked wide range of reactions in respective national contexts, from private nostalgia to public abuse of anniversaries by political élites. Historians were invited to take part. Now the time is coming for expert reflection of how the mainstream remembrance of these events has changed, why the nostalgia for more clearly organised past time, and to what extent our present offers enough distance to study and contemplate these events.

This Newsletter is our contribution to the reflection. We hope the reading adds a special touch to the serene evenings of Advent. Do enjoy the Holiday season!

Adéla Gjuričová

## SAVE THE DATE

Wir auch! 100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht. Stage reading of texts from the Revolution of 1918/1919 by Inka Friedrich. Berlin, **28 January 2019**. More events at <https://100jahrerevolution.berlin/en/>

Cosmopolitan, International, Supranational, Global, Transnational: A European History of Concepts Beyond Nation States, Finnish Institute in Berlin, **15-16 March 2019**

Reformation to Referendum: Writing a New History of Parliament. Lecture by Paul Seaward, London, History of Parliament Trust, **March 20 2019**

Eurasian Parliamentary Practices and Political Mythologies: Duma, Rada, Khural, Legislative Yuan, and Beyond. Conference, University of Heidelberg, **June 17-18, 2019**. Call for papers: <https://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-38669>

## Female Handful



2018 marked 100 years since the British Parliament passed a law that allowed the first women, and all men, to vote for the first time. Yet, as the photo of all women MPs from 1959 shows, it took until the 1990s for the House of Commons to have more than 6 percent of women MPs. (see page 2, Century of Women MPs)





## EVENTS

### On Parliaments in War and Revolution

The Center for Historical Research at St. Petersburg Higher School of Economics, member of EuParl.net since 2017, hosted an international workshop on *Parliamentarianism and Representative Democracy in Crisis of War, Revolution and Collapse of Empires* on 2 October 2018. The keynote lecture by the Center's director Alexander Semyonov

offered a differentiated history of Russian parliamentarianism. It focused on the idea of political representation in social and political crisis of 1905/1906 which enabled the election of the Imperial State Duma, the first Russian parliament, and its relative success in modernising the tsarist Empire. Pasi Ilahainen (University of Jyväskylä,

Finland) diagnosed constitutional reforms in Britain, Germany, Sweden and Finland as the "springs of democracy" resulting from the First World War and the Russian Revolution. Jure Gašparič (Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia) analysed the fragility of representative democracy in interwar Yugoslavia, using its different parliamentary buildings as communicators of political convictions.



A. Semyonov explaining the history of Tauride Palace, which hosted the Imperial State Duma in 1906–1917. On the right: Petrograd Soviet meeting in the same venue in 1917.

### Century of Women MPs

On 5–7 September, University of Westminster and the History of Parliament Trust in London hosted a conference titled *Century of Women MPs*. An international event commemorating the extension of electoral rights of 1918 in the UK drew an intriguing picture of British female pioneers in Parliament, and of later presence of women in politics. EuParl.net was there too! Carla von Baalen from the Dutch Centre for

Parliamentary History described the conflict about women's employment in the Dutch parliament in the 1950s. Adéla Gjuričová from the Czech Institute of Contemporary History talked about the puzzle of female representation in Communist legislatures. The British perspective dominated – as befalls a fine host. The papers discussed early periods when, in order to be elected, women MPs virtually had to be wives of former MPs; times when women joined men in hunger marches and

strikes to at last make their way to the Commons; and recent modes of physical discrimination of female deputies in British Parliament. The first-past-the-post system and its effect on the proportion of women MPs was another key topic: in 1997 the Labour Party first used the "all-women shortlists" that allow only women to stand in particular constituencies. This met with some controversy within the party, but finally opened the way towards the current 29 percent of female MPs in the Commons.



Nancy Astor campaigning in 1919 to become the first female MP



Ellen Wilkinson, the "Red Ellen", with the Jarrow Marchers in 1936, protesting against poverty and unemployment in Northern England



Lecture by the current Labour MP Rachel Reeves offered a fascinating experience: sophisticated, informative, reflective, yet funny





## PROJECTS

### A Bitter Return of Parliament



Adéla Gjuríčová and Tomáš Zahradníček's *Return of Parliament* focuses on Czechoslovak Federal Assembly between the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and the break-up of Czechoslovakia in 1992. The publication concludes their extensive research into the last Czechoslovak parliament. The authors observe the code of business, traditions and "good manners" in the different phases of the legislature that was established in 1968, silenced until 1989, to become the new core of politics until the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1992.

The authors argue that the Federal Assembly as an institution serves as an excellent lens to explore anew Czechoslovakia during the 1989 revolution. The same perspective offers a lesser known account of the first months of post-Communist transformation and suggests quite a specific mode of disintegration of Czechoslovakia. With its focus on Slovak presence, the subtitle *Czechs and Slovaks in the Federal Assembly* serves far more than complimentary role. Even though the authors are Czechs based in Prague, they exerted utmost effort to consider Slovak perspective that proved to be eruditely critical about Czech politics and its leaders.



Book launch in the new court of the Chamber of Deputies in Prague

### Dutch Parliamentary History Is 20

The 20th Yearbook of Parliamentary History is out now. On 20 November, the first copy of the Yearbook was presented in The Hague to the President of the House of Representatives, Khadija Arib, and the President of the Senate, Ankie Broekers-Knol. This year, the editorial board opted for a contrast between urban agglomeration and the countryside as guiding theme; hence the title *Region versus Randstad*. The event took place in the Binnenhof's Oude Zaal, the former plenary hall of the House of Representatives.



Thom de Graaf (left), President of the Foundation for Parliamentary History, together with the two Presidents of the Dutch Parliament, Khadija Arib (centre) and Ankie Broekers-Knol (right)

## Sustainable Parliaments?

Ratih Adiputri, guest researcher at Finnish University of Jyväskylä, studies the role of parliaments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He focuses on international parliamentary institutions (Inter-parliamentary Union, European Parliament and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) and national parliaments in Southeast Asia.

## ESSAY



*To the Parliament!* President Václav Havel and his conflict with the Czechoslovak federal parliament in a cartoon by Vladimír Jiránek, *Lidové noviny*, 26 Oct. 1991

## BOOKS / SOURCES

PALONEN, Kari: *Parliamentary Thinking. Procedure. Rhetoric and Time*. London 2018.

IHALAINEN, Pasi: The First World War, the Russian Revolution and Varieties of Democracy in Northwest European Debates. In J. KURUNMÄKI, J. NEVERS, & H. t. VELDE (eds.), *Democracy in Modern Europe: A Conceptual History*. New York 2018, pp. 160-181.

RECKER, Marie-Luise: *Parlamentarismus in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Der Deutsche Bundestag 1949–1969*. Düsseldorf 2018.

BAUER, Matthias: Die transnationale Zusammenarbeit sozialistischer Parteien in der Zwischenkriegszeit. Eine Analyse der außenpolitischen Kooperations- und Vernetzungsprozesse am Beispiel von SPD, SFIO und Labour Party. Düsseldorf 2018.

COWLEY, Philip – KAVANAGH, Dennis: *The British General Election of 2017*. London 2018.





## CONFERENCE

### Entering the Parliamentary Stage – Women in Parliament and Politics in international Comparison

A conference on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the introduction of women's suffrage in Germany

6– 8 March 2019, Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, Bundestag, Berlin

Organized by the Commission for the History of Parliamentarianism and Political Parties (KGParl), Berlin  
in cooperation with the Chair of Gender History at the Historical Institute of the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena,  
the Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague  
and the Masaryk-Institute and Archive, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Wednesday, 6 March, 8pm

#### OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Welcome by Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble,  
President of the German Bundestag

Panel discussion with active and former politicians

Thursday, 7 March, 9am – 6pm

#### SECTION 1

**National asynchrony – the momentum of the introduction of women's suffrage**

PASI IHALAINEN (Jyväskylä) / TIINA KINNUNEN(Oulu): Inter- and transnational aspects of the introduction of women's suffrage in Finland 1906

KERSTIN WOLFF (Kassel): The German women's voting rights movement after the "Easter Message" of 1917 – Departure for new shores?

CORRINE M. MCCONNAUGHY (Washington): The woman suffrage movement in the United States of America

MARIE BAHENSKÁ / JANA MALÍNSKÁ (Prag): A woman on the ballot – the elections for the Bohemian state parliament in 1908 and at the beginning of the Czechoslovak Republic

FRANÇOISE THÉBAUD (Avignon): Freedom – equality – fraternity: The "belated" introduction of women's suffrage in France

TOBIAS KAISER (Berlin): Sufragettes and suffragists in international networks

#### SECTION 2

**Prerequisites and course of parliamentary careers of women**

ANDREAS LINSENMANN (Koblenz-Landau) / MARKUS RAASCH (Mainz): Catholic-feminine agency in a male world – The women of political Catholicism

KIRSTEN HEINSOHN (Hamburg): The importance of associations and parties in the course of women's parliamentary careers

IVAN SABLIN (Heidelberg): Minority women and revolutionary parliaments. The cases of Russian and Soviet assemblies in 1917–1922 and 1989–1993

IWONA DADEJ (Berlin/Warsaw): The Polish parliament 1919–1939 in a gender perspective – a collective biography

Friday, 8 March, 9am – 6pm

#### SECTION 3

**Political performance and everyday-life in parliament**

MARIE-LUISE RECKER (Frankfurt a.M.): "The whole range of political topics?" Female fields of activity and male power

ANDREAS SCHULZ (Berlin): The staging of femininity in political space

PAUL SEAWARD (London): "Gender wars" in the UK Parliament since 1918

CARLA HOETINK / HARM KAAL (Nijmegen): "This is a man's world"? Female performance in Dutch Parliament, 1918–2018

ADÉLA GJURIČOVÁ (Prag): Standing for women? Female presence in socialist parliaments

MURIEL FAVRE (Frankfurt): Outstanding speakers? Performances by Anne Brauksiepe, Helene Wessel and Grethe Thiele in the Bundestag defense debate on February 8, 1952

#### SECTION 4

**Public resonance and media discourses**

HENNING TÜRK (Potsdam): Between "weak sex" and liberal-patriotic mother – The debate on the admission of women as spectators to Parliament in the German countries and Great Britain in the 19th century

ANDREAS BIEFANG (Berlin): No more breeches roles – Self- and external images of the women's rights movement

CORNELIA BADDACK (Koblenz): Petticoat or pants? Political polemic between anti-feminism and emancipative affection using the example of Katharina von Kardorff-Oheimb

BETTINA TÜFFERS (Berlin): Feminism in parliament? The Greens' feminat in the Bundestag of the 1980s

Registration is required for security reasons. Please note the registration form at <https://kgparl.de/konferenz-frauenwahlrecht/>. There will be simultaneous translation between English and German.