

EuParl.net Newsletter

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European Information and
Research Network on
Parliamentary History

Spring/Summer 2022

Dear readers,

In May, two of the key EuParl.net members experienced major re-shuffles or celebrated grand anniversaries.

Carla van Baalen led the Dutch Centre for Parliamentary History in Nijmegen for nearly a quarter of a century. She just retired, still smiling and remaining as active as ever. Her colleagues, including the author of this editorial, were keen to collect their memories and professional tributes in a festschrift characteristically entitled "She Thrives in Cooperation".

Another founding EuParl.net member, the German Commission for the History of Parliamentarism and Political Parties, or KGParl, celebrated its 70th anniversary. Set up in 1952 as an elite expert body in West Germany, it survived the political turmoils of the 1960s and 1970s, to finally come under the auspices of the Bundestag of reunified Germany and move to Berlin in 2006.

It is a great pleasure to share these events with our much loved and respected colleagues. Even more so given they also represent model institutes that do cutting edge research into parliamentary cultures, while keeping ample autonomy from their patron institutions. Congratulations and very best wishes!

Adéla Gjuričová

NEWS

A Happy Farewell



'Ze gedijt in samenwerking'
—
EEN REIK AFWERKEN VAN
Carla van Baalen als directeur
van het Centrum voor
Parlementaire Geschiedenis

Zijgedijt in samenwerking (She thrives in co-operation). Many of us tried to portray her as a distinguished scholar, lovely friend, and encouraging tutor. Carla has not yet withdrawn com-

pletely. Together with Anne Bos, she is editor of the Parliamentary History of the Netherlands volume on the long 1970s, forthcoming this Summer.



KGParl Turns 70

On 6 May, the jubilee was kicked off by a public gathering in the Haus der Bundespressekonferenz in Berlin. The room known as the venue of Angela Merkel's press conferences hosted a keynote lecture by Paul Nolte from the Freie Universität Berlin and a panel discussion on the challenges that representative democracy now faces.

To mark the occasion, KGParl published a catalogue of all publications since 1952, along with a number of the series in pdf, [online](#). (See also page 3.)



PROJECTS

On Socialist Constitutions



Ivan Sablin's ERC ENTPAR project produced yet another fascinating workshop, this time dedicated to *Socialist Constitutionalism and Diversity Management since the 1970s*. Held in Heidelberg on 12 and 13 May 2022, it brought together researchers working on East-Central Europe, former Soviet Union, as well as China. The presented research, largely work-in-progress, showed highly diversified constitutional

processes within the seemingly homogeneous socialist bloc. You can find the list of speakers and more details [here](#).

Everything You Wanted to Know about Slovenian Constitution

A team at Slovenian Institute of Contemporary History has completed an online [project](#) on drafting and adopting a new constitution for independent Slovenia in 1990–1991. Besides historical and legal context and detailed chronology, the website contains countless documents, including the archives of the Commission for Constitution Drafting.



Slovenian Parliament adopting the Constitution, 23 December 1991

On German Parliamentarism since 1815



The book *Parlamentarismus in Deutschland von 1815 bis zur Gegenwart* edited by Andreas Biefang, Dominik Geppert, Marie-Luise Recker and Andreas Wirsching is much more than a jubilee volume. The KGParl managed to put together a synthesis of modern German parliamentarism that stretches from explaining the parliamentary tradition and its aftermath in contemporary Bundestag, to illustrating the latest approaches in studying parliamentary history, addressing gender issues and institutional contexts.

Revisiting the Nineties

The Czech Institute of Contemporary History responded to the wide popular debate on the transformation era of the 1990s that recently unrolled. Inspired by the *Devadesátky* TV series, that depicted skyrocketing crime rates after 1989, including racketeering, torture and murder in the new private business, the Czech public seemed divided over the democratic and other narratives of the era. The workshop brought together leading historians and political scientists to try to formulate



the political–history state of the art, and the most pressing questions and topics.

NEWS

CPG New Director



Ronald Kroeze was appointed director of the Dutch Centre for Parliamentary History, starting on 1 May. Based at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, he specialises in modern political history, namely in the history of corruption, democracy, colonial governance, and the influence of management and neoliberalism on national and European politics. Best wishes for a fruitful and enjoyable journey ahead!

SAVE THE DATE

Breaking the Glass Chamber: Women, Politics, and Parliament in Britain, 1945–1997. Conference, London, **15–17 Sept. 2022**

Parliaments and parliamentary institutions facing political crisis from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century. ICHRPI Conference, Paris, **21–23 Sept. 2022**

EuParl.net Board of Directors' Meeting. Ljubljana, **28 Sept. 2022**

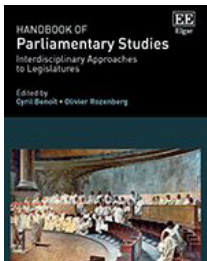
Eastern Enlargement, or an All-European Transformation? The 1990s in European Politics. EuParl.net workshop, Ljubljana, **29 Sept. 2022**

Kompromiss: Historisch-systematische Erkundung eines parlamentarischen Entscheidungsmodus in Europa. Conference, KGParlBerlin, **6–7 Oct. 2022**

Parliaments in Crises – Crises in Parliaments. Workshop, Taipei, **6–7 Oct. 2022**



BOOKS/SOURCES



BENOIT, Cyril – ROZENBERG, Olivier (eds.): *Handbook of Parliamentary Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Legislatures*. Edward Elgar 2020.

HAAPARINNE, Zachris: *Voice of the People or Raving of the Rabble? Petitions and Disputes on Political Representation in Britain, 1721–1776*. Dissertation, University of Jyväskylä, 2021. [Open access.](#)

IHALAINEN, Pasi – HOLMILA, Antero (eds.): *Concepts Beyond the Nation State*. Berghahn Books 2022.

IHALAINEN, Pasi – JANSSEN, Berit – MARJANEN, Jani – VAARA, Ville:

Building and testing a comparative interface on Northwest European historical parliamentary debates: Relative term frequency analysis of British representative democracy. In: Digital Parliamentary Data in Action, *CEUR Workshop Proceedings*, Vol. 3133, 2022, pp. 52–68. [Open access.](#)

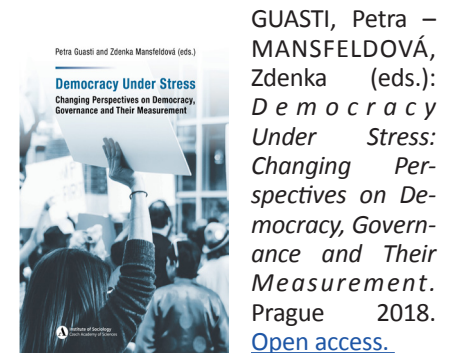
SIEFKEN, Sven T. – ROMMETVEDT, Hilmar: *Parliamentary Committees in the Policy Process*. Routledge 2022.



SOLDWISCH, Ines: *Das Europäische Parlament 1979–2004. Inszenierung, Selbst(er)findung und politisches Handeln der Abgeordneten*. Kohlhammer

Handeln der Abgeordneten. Kohlhammer 2021.

WERTS, Jan: *The European Council in the Era of Crises*. John Harper Publishing 2021.



Parlamente in der Pandemie. Special issue of *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (2021), pp. 723–946.

REPORT

Parliaments and Pandemics

The international workshop *Parliaments in Pandemics* was held in Prague in hybrid mode on 26–27 May 2022. It was convened by the Institute of Political Science at Charles University FSV Faculty and the IPSA Research Committee of Legislative Specialists. The latter had responded to lockdowns and academic isolation in a highly creative manner. Within the Parliaments in Pandemics (PiP) project, they carried out a series of comprehensive specialist panel surveys in 2020 and 2021 to find out how the parliaments across the globe coped with the situation.

Sven Siefken opened the workshop with a keynote on the first findings of the PiP network survey. These seem to suggest that, rather than experiencing much of a long-term “learning through the crisis”, most parliaments responded to the shock brought about by the first-wave by introducing some operational changes, and then continued in relative stability. The three panels reflected on the effect of COVID-19 on the functioning of parliaments, including their digitisation, public perception and relationship to other governmental bodies. Petra Guasti

explored the pandemic as a technocratic challenge for democracy. She demonstrated how technocracy undermined the principles of accountability and oversight and aggrandized the role of leaders. Adéla Gjuríčová attempted to shift the political-science and political-sociology mainstream at the workshop toward historiographical approaches, asking how

the study of parliamentary culture can enrich the interpretation of parliaments in crises.

The event arranged by Petra Guasti and Zdenka Mansfeldová turned into an intriguing meeting of political scientists, sociologists and historians from three continents. Do join the research committee to receive RCLS newsletter [here](#). Updates on the survey on [PiP twitter](#).

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KGParl's 70th birthday continued. The panel discussion, from left to right: Andreas Wirsching, Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Nana Brink, Hélène Miard-Delacroix, and Dominik Geppert