BEYOND NUMBERS: COMPARING MECHANISMS FOR SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada
Dec. 5-7, 2018

This conference brings together leading Canadian and international scholars, expert practitioners, and graduate students to examine and compare formal and informal mechanisms for inclusion of indigenous and ethnic minorities within parliament and other branches of government. The focus is on global variation in institutional mechanisms of indigenous/ethnic inclusion, and their effectiveness and substantive impact on targeted communities and for democratic governance as a whole.

Over two-and-a-half days, participants will examine the underlying principles, implementation, and effects of various legal mechanisms and practices meant to secure the descriptive political representation of targeted ethnic and indigenous groups, across diverse countries. These include ethnic quotas, reserved seats, gerrymandering, and a multitude of informal power-sharing arrangements implemented within parties, elected assemblies and other governing bodies. Such mechanisms can be found world-wide, in established and emerging democracies, across varying political contexts and degrees of ethnic conflict. A relatively recent development in some countries, they are of longstanding duration in others. In addition to very different mechanics for ethnic representation, the number, demographic and political circumstances of targeted groups vary widely from country to country. And while they may ensure a particular ethnic or indigenous group gets a seat at the table, it remains unclear whether and under what conditions these inclusion mechanisms work to genuinely augment a group’s political power, reduce conflict, promote democratic practices, or advance ethnic peace. It is also unclear what impact these rules of ethnic representation have on identity and categories belonging, for both targeted and non-targeted groups.

While global in focus, the conference pays special attention to Canada, where there is an enduring informal mandate for inclusion of ethno-linguistic and regional minorities, and a long and rich history of various mechanisms to share power and advance diversity in representation at all levels of government. Yet despite a wide range of models and practices across Canada and many other countries, we still have little systematic understanding of whether and what particular methods of numerical inclusion work best to strengthen minority rights and provide effective representation of the targeted groups. By bringing together expertise across a wide range of cases, we aim to generate new insights and illuminate both positive and more problematic trends in performance and outcomes of these systems of ethnic representation.

In addition to thematic panels, keynote speech and roundtable, the conference will also provide a useful training opportunity focusing on Methodological Innovations and New Datasets for Assessing Descriptive and Substantive Indigenous & Ethnic Group Representation. Participants in these modules will gain practical insights into automated textual analysis of parliamentary debates, GIS mapping and political geography, and use of Vox Pop/Vote Compass data for studying minority populations. We invite all conference participants to partake in these modules. Those not already invited to the conference who would like to participate in the training modules should please complete the registration form.

We look forward to working together to harness the comparative insights, methodological training, and broader discussion arising from this conference to advance scholarly and policy debates on how to promote effective representation of indigenous and ethnic minorities in Canada and countries around the world.

For information, contact Karen Bird kbird@mcmaster.ca and Netina Tan netina@mcmaster.ca
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 2018
KEYNOTE & WELCOME DINNER
Fischer Gallery, Art Gallery of Hamilton

6:30 pm: “Representation by Design” – David Lublin (American University)

THURSDAY, DEC. 6, 2018
L. R. Wilson Hall 1056

8-8:45 am: Breakfast

8:45-10:15 am: Panel 1 – Theoretical and Methodological Challenges in Studying Ethnic and Indigenous Representation

1. “Rethinking Substantive Representation of Ethnic Minorities” (Jelena Loncar, University of York, UK)
2. “The Linguistic Features of Substantive Representation” (Ludovic Rheault, University of Toronto)
3. “Democracy, Ethnicity, and Quotas: Towards a Typology of Legal Measures Fostering Ethnic Representation in Democratic Parliaments Worldwide” (Jackie F. Steele, University of Tokyo)
4. “Indigenous Peoples and Mixed Member Proportional Representation: Theories of Representation and Some Considerations from Aotearoa New Zealand” (David B. MacDonald, University of Guelph)

Chair: Meaghan Williams, University of Toronto
Discussant: Matthijs Bogaards, Central European University/Catherine Frost, McMaster University

10:30 am-12 noon: Panel 2 – Reserved Seats and Formal Quotas

1. “Symbolic vs. Substantive Representation of Indigenous Interests in the Taiwanese Legislature” (Kharis Templeman, Stanford University)
2. “The Substantive Representation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America” (Christina Ewig, University of Minnesota)
3. “Political Representation of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia in Comparative Perspective of South-east European Countries” (Siniša Tatalović, Zagreb University, Croatia)
4. “What Can Gender and Ethnicity-based Quotas Achieve? Cumulative Findings on the Impact of Reservation Policies in India” (Simon Chauchard, Dartmouth College)

Chair: Allison McCulloch, Brandon University
Discussant: Bassel Salloukh, Lebanese American University, Lebanon/Roberta Rice, University of Calgary

12-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:30 pm: Panel 3 – Ethnic Gerrymandering

1. “Geographic Districting and Targeted Racial and Ethnic Representation” (Bernie Grofman, University of California, Irvine)
2. “Mechanisms for the Election of Indigenous Peoples in Canada” (John C. Courtney, University of Saskatchewan)
3. “Reconciliation, Political Representation, and the Constitution” Michael Pal, Member of the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission/University of Ottawa)
4. “Minority Representation in Electoral Systems that Rely on Single-member Districts” (Lisa R. Handley, Director at Frontier International Electoral Consulting)

Chair: Rachel Barnett, McMaster University
Discussant: Benjamin Forest, McGill University/Christina Ewig, University of Minnesota
2:45-4:15 pm: **Panel 4 – Consociational and Centripetal Settings for Ethnic Inclusion**

2. “Democracy and Diversity in Pacific Asia: From Consociationalism to Centripetalism” (Benjamin Reilly, Murdoch University, Australia)

Chair: Lisa R. Handley, Director at Frontier International Electoral Consulting
Discussant: Robert Schertzer, University of Toronto/ Jelena Loncar, University of York, UK

4:30-6:00 pm: **Panel 5 – Ethnic & Indigenous Representation via Federalism and Multi-level Governance**

1. “Indigenous Representation: On the Way to Self-government” (Oscar Mejía Mesa, Université Laval)
2. “Indigenous Representation through Executive Federalism” (Michael Morden, Samara Canada)
3. “Quebec’s Judges? Assessing Representative Outcomes on the Supreme Court of Canada” (Robert Schertzer, University of Toronto)
4. “Challenging Convention: A Personality Principle Approach to Treaty Federalism and Indigenous Representation in Canada” (Meaghan Williams, University of Toronto)

Chair: Roberta Rice, University of Calgary
Discussants: Bill Cross, Carleton University/ Peter Graefe, McMaster

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**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & DINNER**
Celebration Hall, Kenneth Taylor Hall B116

6:15-7:00pm: **Toward More Effective Indigenous and Minority Representation in Canada: Electoral Boundary Developments in Nova Scotia and Ontario’s Far North** (The Honourable Justice Joyce Pelletier, Chair of the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission; Michael Pal, Member of the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission/University of Ottawa; Kenneth Deveau, Member of the Commission on Effective Electoral Representation of Acadian and African Nova Scotians/Université Sainte-Anne; John Courtney, University of Saskatchewan)

7:00-9:00 pm: **Dinner**

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**FRIDAY, DEC. 7, 2018**
L. R. Wilson Hall 1056

8-8:45 am: **Breakfast**

8:45-10:15 am: **Panel 6 – The Role of Political Parties in Ethnic Representation: Comparing Canada**

1. “Ethno-Linguistic Group Representation within Political Parties” (Bill Cross, Carleton University)
3. “Candidates, Constituencies, and Party Organizations: Minority Political Participation in the 2015 Canadian Federal Election” (Benjamin Forest, McGill University)
4. “How Big is the Tent? Indigenous Inclusion in Canadian Political Parties” (Karen Bird, McMaster University)

Chair: Jelena Loncar, University of York, UK
Discussant: Jo Saglie, Institute for Social Research, Norway/ Bernie Grofman, University of California, Irvine
10:30-12 noon: **Panel 7 – Institutional Designs and Ethnic Representation: Comparing Globally**

1. “Can Constitutions Create Consociational Parties? The Case of Burundi” (Matthijs Bogaards, Central European University, Hungary)
2. “Quotas, Reserved Seats and Forms of Ethnic Representations in Asia” (Netina Tan and Cassandra Preece, McMaster University)
3. “Political Cleavages in Indigenous Representation: The Case of the Norwegian and Swedish Sámediggit” (Jo Saglie, Institute for Social Research, Norway)
4. “The Impact of Institutional Mechanisms for Minority Inclusion in the Arab World” (Bassel Salloukh, Lebanese American University, Lebanon)

Chair: Christina Ewig, University of Minnesota
Discussants: Benjamin Reilly, Murdoch University / Allison McCullough, Brandon University

12:1:00 pm: **Lunch with Roundtable Discussion of Research Contributions and Publication Plans**
Karen Bird and Netina Tan

**METHODS TRAINING MODULES**
L. R. Wilson Hall 1056

1:00-2:15 pm: **Module 1** – Automated textual analysis of parliamentary debates (Ludovic Rheault, University of Toronto)

2:30-3:45 pm: **Module 2** – GIS and geo-political mapping of ethnic diversity (Benjamin Forest, McGill University)

4:00-5:15 pm: **Module 3** – Using the Vote Compass datasets to study minority populations (Cliff van der Linden, McMaster University)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 2018**

**COLLABORATORS PLANNING MEETING**
9am-3pm
Location: TBA

For Research Collaborators:
Karen Bird
Netina Tan
Matthijs Bogaards
Daniel Bochsler (unable to attend)
Christina Ewig
Bassel Salloukh