

New Procedures

The draft language for the procedures established by the Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms is as follows:

1. The committee will become involved in varying degrees in cases which are brought up by a reputable third-party information source. All such cases, however, will first be cross-checked through the Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The fact that all requests for consideration or assistance are first cross-checked with the Clearinghouse will be made known to anyone making such requests. Because the committee lacks the resource base to investigate and act on cases autonomously, the committee will rely as much as possible on the Clearinghouse in deciding which cases to act on and in obtaining information about those cases.

2. Ordinarily, the committee will respond to cases involving scholars whose fields correspond to those subsumed in the U.S. under the phrase "political science." However, because certain cases, which may not involve political scientists specifically, may have broad implications for all political and social scientists and because the Association wishes to develop a cooperative relationship with and to assist other disciplines where possible, the committee will take up a few cases which seem most serious to the committee but which may not directly involve political scientists. (The committee established a limit of six cases of this sort.)

3. The committee will take up cases which seem to the committee to be egregious enough to merit the committee's attention, given the limited time and resources of the committee. The committee will use the International Declaration of Human Rights and the two accompanying covenants as a basic standard of human rights and as a basis to determine what constitutes a violation of those rights.

4. The committee's procedure will be to write a letter of inquiry to the appropriate authorities and to follow up that letter

with subsequent letters. Other actions such as visits to embassies and site visits would be considered at the appropriate time.

IPSA

The committee also discussed the role of the Association and its representatives in the upcoming meeting of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Brazil. The members of the committee agreed that "it makes little sense to take on individual human rights cases, if at the highest level of the Association human rights are not actively supported," one committee member said.

Consequently, the committee has requested APSA's representatives to the IPSA World Congress (Seymour Martin Lipset, Philip Converse, and Thomas Mann) to support actively the Association's commitment on human rights at the IPSA meeting in Rio de Janeiro, August 9-14.

In addition to Zingale and Sindler, other members of the committee are: Louise Comfort of San Jose State University, Marian Palley of the University of Delaware, Allan Sindler of the University of California at Berkeley, and John Wahlke of the University of Arizona. Association members with comments on this matter may write the committee in care of the national office.

Australian Survey Planned, Questions Welcome

A major social and political survey of the Australian population is to be conducted this year by researchers at the Australian National University and the University of Melbourne. The main aim of this study is to collect timely, high quality social and political data based on a large, representative national sample. The study will also investigate several specific questions concerning public satisfaction and dissatisfaction with government and the effects of family background, ethnicity, and gender on inequality and political attitudes and behavior.

These data, based on approximately 2,000 personal interviews with a representative national sample, will be made freely available to other researchers through the Social Science Data Archive at the Australian National University at the Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research at the University of Michigan. It is anticipated that this survey will become one of the major academic sources of information on social and political questions in Australia.

Support for this research has been provided jointly by the Australian Research Grants Committee and the Australian National University's Research School of Social Sciences. Present funding is for a single survey which will be in the field in late 1982 or early 1983. However, it is hoped to turn this into a continuing panel study with reinterviews of the same respondents (augmented by a sample of new entrants to keep the sample representative of the population) at three-year intervals in the future. This would allow measurement of stability and change among individuals as well as estimates of general historical trends.

Cross-National

The survey is part of a growing international tradition of multi-purpose social surveys designed for public use. Examples of these are the well known political surveys from the University of Michigan, the general social surveys from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, the German National Social Survey, and the European Economic Commission's Euro-barometer surveys. The Australian survey will include many questions from these studies, so that clear cross-national comparisons will be possible.

Most of the questions in the survey will be 'core' items covering standard demographic and background information together with a wide range of social and political items of interest to a broad academic audience. These will include age, ethnicity, occupation, industry, education, income, religion, children, family background, political attitudes, and party preference.

These core items will be repeated in future rounds of the survey and, in addition to their immediate value, will eventually provide measures of changes over time. In addition to these core items, there will be additional questions which are asked only once, mainly items of topical or narrowly specialized interest.

Questions Welcome

The final selection of items will be based in part on the preferences of potential users. While constraints of time necessarily limit the number of questions that can be included, researchers who would like to suggest items are invited to contact one of the principal investigators at the address given below. Items that have previously been used with success on national surveys in Australia or abroad are strongly preferred. Items that would be of interest to a broad range of researchers are preferred to those of interest only to a few. Some indication of past research on similar issues, and plans for future research using the item, would be very welcome.

A lengthy draft of possible items will be assembled and sent for comments to potential users at universities and research institutions in Australia and elsewhere in the world. Potential users who would like to comment on this draft are invited to contact the principal investigators. It would be appreciated if they would give some indication of their interests and the use they might make of the data.

The project is directed by Jonathan Kelley, senior research fellow in the Department of Sociology at the Research School of Social Sciences in The Australian National University, Canberra; by R. G. Cushing, reader and head of the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Arts, The Australian National University; and by Bruce Headley, senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science, the University of Melbourne.

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September 10: Fall *PS* Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the fall issue of *PS* is September 10. Please indicate in which section submitted material should be placed. Also, items for *PS* should be submitted in *PS* format.