



Message from the Chair

Professor Charlie Lees

Dear colleagues,

We have reached the end of another exciting year for the Association. Earlier in the spring we had the annual IASGP conference and in September many of us met up in Berlin for the IASGP election trip. Many thanks again to Martine Huberty, Dan Hough and Michael Koss for all of their hard work on this latest trip, which was as enjoyable as ever. We also sincerely thank the DAAD for their ongoing support.

In the meantime, we have now had an outcome to the protracted coalition negotiations and there have been no real surprises – prepare for Grand Coalition Mark 3. Although I am sure many of us are already working on articles about this, do remember to take a break over the holiday period!

The end of the year sees Assoc Prof. Louise Davidson-Schmich and Assoc. Prof. Michael Koss step down as our US and European Secretaries. I am sure you will agree that they have done a sterling job over the last three years. Thanks also to Prof. Simon Bulmer, Dr. Nicola Corkin, Prof. Dan Hough, and Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Olsen, who all step down from the IASGP Executive and have all made a real contribution to the life of the Association.

Nevertheless, I am sure we will all welcome the new line-up of Association officers. You will recall that we called for nominations earlier this year and it is a pleasure to report the following:

First, I welcome Prof. Joyce Mushaben from the University of Missouri-St Louis, who becomes US Secretary, and Dr. Melanie Kintz from TU Chemnitz, who becomes European Secretary. Second, I am pleased that we have not lost the talents of Assoc. Prof. Louise Davidson-Schmich (Miami) and Assoc. Prof. Michael Koss (Munich), who rejoin the Executive, along with Dr. Ed Turner (Aston), Dr. Alister Miskimmon (Royal Holloway), and Dr. Henrik Scheller (Potsdam). Welcome all.

Furthermore, we are happy to announce the new editorial team for *German Politics*, which will operate from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017: Professor Thomas Saalfeld (Bamberg, Academic Managing Editor), Professor Dan Hough (Sussex), Professor Wade Jacoby (Brigham Young), Professor Helga Welsh (Wake Forest). The new team of Review Editors is composed of Professor Julia Fleischer (Amsterdam), Dr. Ed Turner (Aston), and the new member of the Editorial Advisory Board is Professor Joyce Mushaben (Missouri-St. Louis).

Finally, I step down as Chair at the end of 2014 and am keen to identify potential successors as early as possible and ensure a smooth transition. I will be convening a small ad hoc search team in the New Year from Executive members but would invite all members of the Association to contact me if you want to suggest any names or even nominate yourself. All suggestions will be handled with discretion. Potential candidates will be approached and if there are multiple candidates willing to take on the role we will hold an election as we did when I was elected in 2011.

However, all of this is for the New Year. For now, I wish you all Seasons Greetings on behalf of the Association and *Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß und einen guten Rutsch ins Jahr 2014!*

Charlie Lees. Bath, UK. Dec 2013.



Message from the *German Politics* Managing Academic Editor

Professor Thomas Saalfeld

As the Managing Academic Editor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the editorial team for their sterling services to the German politics community: Professor Thomas Poguntke (University of Düsseldorf) has made a huge contribution to our editorial work over the years. Given his many commitments, he felt he wanted to pass on the torch. We, the editors, are deeply grateful for all the hard work he has put into the journal. I would also like to thank Klaus Brummer (University of Erlangen) and Christian Schweiger (Durham University) for their brilliant work as review editors. They, too, have made a considerable contribution to the journal.

Finally, I would like to alert the membership to two recent issues of *German Politics*. In June we published a double special issue on the “CDU in Flux”. Edited by Simon Green and Edward Turner, the contributors to this excellent collection of essays seek to map out and analyze recent changes in the CDU and CSU. Contributors include Tim Bale, Andre Krouwel, Simon Green, Charles Lees, Eike-Christian Hornig, Udo Zolleis, Carina Wertheimer, Ed Turner, Arijana Neumann, Marc Debus, Jochen Müller, Sarah Elise Wiliarty, Clay Clemens and Josef Schmid.

A few days ago, issue 22(3) 2013 was published with the following contributions:

- David F. Patton, ‘The Left Party at Six: The PDS–WASG Merger in Comparative Perspective’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 219-234.
- Oliver Nachtwey, ‘Market Social Democracy: The Transformation of the SPD up to 2007’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 235-252.
- Hilmar Langhelle Mjelde, ‘How and Why Parties Respond to Membership Decline: The Case of the SPD and the CDU’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 253-269.
- Klaus Detterbeck, ‘The Rare Event of Choice: Party Primaries in German Land Parties’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 270-287.
- Eric Linhart, ‘Does an Appropriate Coalition Theory Exist for Germany? An Overview of Recent Office- and Policy-Oriented Coalition Theories’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 288-313.
- Kerstin Martens and Dennis Niemann, ‘When Do Numbers Count? The Differential Impact of the PISA Rating and Ranking on Education Policy in Germany and the US’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 314-332.
- Simon O. Green, ‘Germany: A Changing Country of Immigration’, *German Politics*, Vol. 22. No. 3 (2013), 333-351.



Fall 2013 Election Trip Report

By Martine Huberty

IASGP election observation trip to Berlin (September 18-23, 2013)

The IASGP organises a trip to Berlin every time there is a federal election to provide participants with a chance to meet candidates a few days before the elections and opportunities to collect first class research material. With the kind support of the DAAD, we were able to offer a grant to participants to cover part of the costs for accommodation and travel. 46 scholars of German politics from the US, the UK, the Czech Republic, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany joined our election observation trip- we are becoming a truly international association! Our participants also ranged from eminent retired professors to PhD students and a third of them were female scholars.

Arrival was on a cold rainy Wednesday before the election. We started at 9 am on Thursday for a meeting with Gert Olav Göhs at the CDU headquarters for a detailed and confident presentation on the CDU campaign strategies, opinion polls and policies. We then dashed to the historic Rosa Luxembourg House for a presentation by election campaign leader Matthias Höhn from Die Linke. Höhn provided us with lots of information on the posters, the different campaign strategies in the East and the West and- it must be mentioned- a rather copious buffet which was much appreciated! Nick Pickard, Political Counsellor and Consul-General for North East Germany welcomed us at the British Embassy to give us a British government perspective on the elections. This was very relevant in light of the British plans for change in the EU. After a quick lunch, we met Prof. Martin Neumann MdB in the now vacant FDP tower of the Bundestag. Prof. Neumann talked extensively about his area of competence, education policy, but also answered questions on varied topics such as taxation and the Eurocrisis (see <http://www.martin-neumann.net/content/martin-neumann-diskutiert-mit-renommierten-parteienforschern-%C3%BCber-den-fdp-bundestagswahlkampf>). We finished the day with the SPD final campaign event at the Alexanderplatz, where Frank Walter Steinmeier, Sigmar Gabriel and Peer Steinbrück put the accent on social justice and called for change.

Friday morning started with a visit to the headquarters of the Greens, where Reinhard Bütikofer MEP gave a candid assessment of the Green's manifesto and election strategy. At the Landesvertretung Hessen, Wolfgang Gibowski had kindly organised a roundtable with Dr. Yvonne Schroth (Vorstandsmitglied Forschungsgruppe Wahlen), Richard Hilmer (Geschäftsführer infratest dimap) and Dr. Viola Neu (Leiterin der Wahlforschung der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung), followed by lunch. Our final official meeting was with the honorary

president of the IASGP, Dr. Eva Högl Mdb, who gave us an open briefing of the SPD's manifesto and elaborated on her own campaign in her constituency Berlin Mitte. The day ended with a lovely buffet at the Max und Moritz restaurant in Kreuzberg sponsored by the IASGP. This was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other.

On Saturday, we attended the final CDU election campaign event in the Tempodrom, where Angela Merkel delivered a message of confidence and hope and the public was entertained with songs such as "Angie wird noch kurz die Welt retten". Some of our participants went to the final Green election campaign event, and one of our participants managed to get an interview with a member from the AfD on Saturday as well!

On election day, we had some much needed free time until the election parties started. We had managed to get tickets to the SPD, the Greens, the Linke and a select few for the FDP parties. The group spread out and could attend those parties which each preferred. Some did a bit of party hopping and attended two or three! While the atmosphere was reportedly the best at the Linke, the FDP election party died down at 8.30.

Finally, on Monday we attended the election briefing by the Bundespresseamt with Richard Hilmer (Infratest-dimap), Matthias Jung (Forschungsgruppe Wahlen), Prof. Dr. Renate Köcher (Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach) und Dr. Peter Matuschek (forsa). The official IASGP election trip ended with this, but the DAAD had organised a roundtable discussion on the elections later in the day, where Prof. Joyce Mushaben from our group joined the panel. Last but not least, we must officially announce the winner of our election sweepstake: Gianfranco Baldini from the University of Bologna, a first time participant! Second place went, for the second trip running, to Wayne Thompson, although the battle for podium places couldn't have been closer! Wayne actually tied with both Charlie Lees and Meredith Heiser-Duron, but his turnout guess was fractionally better. Thanks must go to Michael Koss, European Secretary, and Dan Hough from the Executive Committee for all their help to Martine Huberty in organising this trip.



The IASGP Delegation in front of the *Kanzleramt*



Announcements of Interest

IASGP Members' Commentary on the Elections

Following the Election Trip, many IASGP members commented on the elections in electronic media including:

- Patricia Hogwood on the Political Studies Association Blog: <http://www.psa.ac.uk/insight-plus/blog/german-elections-angela-merkel-coasts-victory>
- Dan Hough on The Conversation: <http://theconversation.com/merkel-must-manoevre-to-see-off-euroscepticism-in-germany-18633>
- Charles Lees on the Political Studies Association Blog: <http://www.psa.ac.uk/psa-communities/specialist-groups/elections-public-opinion-and-parties-epop/blog/2013-german-federal>
- Tereza Novotná on the EurActiv Blog: <http://www.euractiv.com/eu-elections-2014/wanted-bringing-european-identit-analysis-530702>





Announcements of Interest

IASGP Funding Opportunity

The IASGP offers members of the Association the opportunity to apply for financial support in organising events that directly help to profile the Association's activities. The committee has earmarked a maximum of £2,000 annually for this purpose. The scheme will run for 5 years (until the end of 2013) when it will be reviewed with a view to extension and/or expansion.

Members wishing to take advantage of this scheme should take notice of the following points

- Members should be hosting, or heavily involved in organising, an event that clearly raises the profile of the IASGP.
- Applications should contain details of the event, an explanation of why it is in the IASGP's interest to support it and how the IASGP's contribution will be spent.
- Preference will be given to events that are linked to publications, especially and explicitly those that involve *German Politics*
- A two page event report will be provided within three months of the event's conclusion. This report will be published on the IASGP's website and in the IASGP's newsletter.
- The IASGP, its logo and its website should be advertised in any marketing related to the event, the event's programme and literature produced thereafter.
- This scheme is not intended to support the individual participation of members at conferences.
- Applications will be reviewed and assessed by members of the executive committee. The committee's decision will be final
- Members should send their applications (via email) to the North American and European Secretaries.
- There is no deadline (i.e. members can apply at any point in the year). Applications do, however, need to be received at least two months prior to the proposed event taking place.



40th Annual Conference

Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP)

*German House, German Embassy, 34 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8BZ London 27–28 May
2014*

The IASGP is pleased to announce that the Association's annual conference will take place in London on 27th – 28th May 2014. The conference will bring together researchers on German Politics based in the UK, US, Germany and beyond. **Paper (and also panel) proposals** can be submitted by members and non-members alike. Non-members whose papers are accepted will need to join the Association in order to present at the conference. The programme committee would be particularly interested to receive proposals on Germany's political economy, Germany's foreign policy, the recent German federal election and comparative research where Germany is a prominent case-study. Papers/panels on the politics of other German speaking countries are also very welcome. The **deadline** for submitting 200 word abstracts to the programme committee (through Melanie Kintz at melanie.kintz@phil.tu-chemnitz.de) is **15th February 2014**.

Queries should be addressed to IASGP Administrative Assistant, Martine Huberty
(m.huberty@sussex.ac.uk).

<http://www.iasgp.org/>