

# International Political Science

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## German Association for Political Science (GAPS)

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**Barbara Sinderman**

The German Association for Political Science with

**Charles R. Foster**

The Conference Group on German Politics

The German Association for Political Science, founded on February 10, 1951, presently has over 780 members drawn primarily from the academic field. A small number, some 40, are from the fields of journalism and politics. In addition to the regular membership, there are 17 supporting members representing 15 publishing houses and two research institutes. The president of GAPS is Professor Udo Bernbach, elected in October 1975 for a two-year term. Barbara Sinderman continues as General Secretary of the organization.

GAPS is a member of the International Political Science Association and is represented on the IPSA Council by Dr. Klaus von Beyme, Dr. Wolf-Dieter Narr and Dr. Kurt Sontheimer. Dr. von Beyme is also Vice President and member of the executive committee of the international association.

The purpose of GAPS is to promote research in and teaching of political science, particularly the application of the discipline to real-life situations. The association's many functions include holding public conferences and lectures and promoting and publishing scholarly works, and exchanging information on political opinions and experiences with persons and parent organizations overseas.

The association's most recent bi-annual membership assembly, held at the University of Duisburg in October 1975, focused on topics dealing with the "Problems of Legitimacy in Political Systems." Although the lectures contributed to the continuation of the historical confrontation between the Marxist and non-Marxist wings of the GAPS, the atmosphere was much less heated than in previous years. The controversial introductory lectures given by Wilhelm Hennis and Juergen Habermas stimulated lively debate among the participants.

Eleven work-groups were set up to discuss different aspects of the main theme. These in turn were divided into two main sections:

Section A dealt with "State Theory: Problems of legitimacy for the state in post-industrial society (the late stage of capitalism)". "The Politics of Education," "Crisis of Legitimacy Through Multinational Firms?", "Socio-

economic Structure and Political Systems of Socialist States," and "Theories of Legitimacy in Political Acting."

Section B treated "Political Participation," "Political Theory of Justice," "Political Psychology," "Problems of Legitimacy for Political Systems on the Periphery of the International System," "Functions of Legitimacy in International Organizations," and "Doctrines and Procedures of Legitimation."

The lectures by Drs. Hennis and Habermas as well as material from some of the work-groups will appear during the summer of 1976 in a special edition of the PVS. Work-groups not represented in the publication are considering bringing out a separate publication on the results of the work sessions.

The next membership assembly will take place in October 1977. Its main theme will be "Political Science and Practical Politics" (Politische Wissenschaft and Politische Praxis), the location has not as yet been announced.

The association's publications include its journal "Politische Vierteljahresschrift" (PVS), which is published by the Westdeutscher Verlag in Wiesbaden, and since 1969 a series of supplements to PVS. Since 1974, a yearbook titled "German Political Studies" (Sage Publications, London, Beverly Hills) has been available in English to keep the non German-speaking public aware of developments in political science in the FRG. (Vol. I, edited by Klaus von Beyme, is available for \$17.50.) In addition to these publications, the association also issues several newsletters a year dealing with internal matters of significance to the association and its members. The address at the GAPS is 15 Von Melle Park, Hamburg 13, Germany.

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## Correction

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The information on the Dutch Political Science Association printed in the spring *PS* should be corrected to read as follows:

**HOLLAND**  
Koningslaan 31-33  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Officers:**  
President: J. K. De Vree, Utrecht  
Secretary-Treasurer: G. P. Noordzij, Vrije  
Universiteit, Amsterdam

**Publications:**  
ACTA POLITICA  
K. Koch, Utrecht, Editor

**Meetings:**  
Annual Conference (May)  
Occasional Meetings (spring and autumn)