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The last issue of the Bulletin inaugurated a series on the nature and organisation of political studies in other parts of the world. It began with an article (subsequently reprinted in ECPR News) on the current status of political studies in Estonia, by John Coakley. It continues with the following account of the Dutch Political Science Association by its secretary, Kris Lulofs, of the Department of Public Administration, Political Science Section, at the University of Twente.

Political science in the Netherlands: the contribution of the Dutch Political Science Association

The Dutch Political Science Association (Nederlandse Kring voor Wetenschap der Politiek) was founded in 1950, and over the last forty years it has developed into an association with approximately 450 members. Membership of the association is open to full and associate professors, staff members and political science students. The great majority of the members (90 %) are graduates in political science. The main goal of the association is to encourage in the Netherlands an interest in and practice of the study of politics, in the broadest sense of the word. Within the organisation there are seven subdivisions, most of which concentrate on scientific activities in one of the traditional sub-fields of political science. Some sub-divisions concentrate on the activities of graduated political scientists who work outside the academic world. The association is a collective member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). To fully understand the organisation and activities of the association requires some insight into the history of political science in the Netherlands, as well as some knowledge of the positions held by Dutch political scientists in Dutch society.

The history of political science in the Netherlands

The name "political science" and its Dutch equivalent "politologie" were almost unknown in the Netherlands until 1948. In that year, the first Dutch professor of political science was appointed. He took the chair in the newly established Department of Political and Social Science at the University of Amsterdam. The early history of Dutch political science is discussed in detail in *Contemporary Political Science* [1]. The Dutch Political Science Association was founded shortly after the birth of political science as an independent science in the Netherlands, and our association has followed and stimulated the developments in Dutch political science since then. At present almost all Dutch universities have one or more chairs in political science. Full-fledged departments of political science have existed at the University of Amsterdam since 1948, at the Free University in Amsterdam since 1955, at the Catholic University of Nijmegen since 1969 and at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam since 1978. In addition to these, the University of Leyden has had a political science programme for graduate students since 1969. The University of Twente has had, since 1976, a department of public administration, where political science is one of the four key subjects.

Specialization in sub-fields

Because of the small number of political scientists in the Netherlands, the amount of political science research and the number of political science publications remained small for a long time after 1945. The way political science has developed has led to the widely known division into subfields such as: research methods and techniques; the study of the Dutch national political system (electoral behaviour, political parties, parliament, interest groups, and provincial and local politics); comparative politics; international relations; the study of political theories; public administration; and policy

science. We shall not go further into these subfields, but more information about Dutch studies and Dutch publications in the subfields can be found in Hoogerwerf's chapter on the Netherlands in the *International Handbook of Political Science* [2].

Another indication of the development of Dutch political science is the establishment of journals in the field of political science and related areas. Since 1965, *Acta Politica*, *Journal of Political Science*, has been published quarterly. Other relevant Dutch magazines are *Beleid en Maatschappij* (Policy and Society) published since 1973, *Beleidsanalyse* (Policy Analysis) since 1946, *Beleidswetenschap* (Policy-science), published since 1987, *Civis Mundi* (the earlier *Oost-West*) since 1961, *International Spectator* since 1946, *Openbare uitgaven* (Public Expenditures) since 1965 and *Transactie* (*Transaction: Journal of Peace Research*) since 1972. *Acta Politica* can be regarded as the journal of the Dutch Political Science Association. The journal is published four times a year by an independent council of editors. The council of editors is intended to reflect both the geographic diversity and the specialization in subfields. The editors are selected by means of a carefully balanced procedure by the board of the Dutch Political Science Association and the council of editors.

Political science graduates: their education and their work

Yet another indication of the development of Dutch political science is the growth in the number of students and graduates. For a long time, the number of graduates remained low, since there were only two full political science departments. The number of graduates increased from 126 in 1976 to approximately 2,500 at the moment.

Since 1967 the field of political science has been regulated by the Academic Statute. Its contents are very brief. The political science department belongs to the School of Social Sciences. The candidate's BA examination in political science includes political science as a major, methods and techniques of social research and three other fields. The MA examination, leading to the Dutch doctorandus degree, which is not the same as the doctor's degree, includes a major in political science and two minors. As a result of the already mentioned specialization of scientific interests, three legal political specializations were set up in the law department, namely international relations, public administration, and political science.

The results of a survey conducted under the auspices of the Dutch Political Science Association of political scientists who graduated from the universities in the period 1984-1986 show that the rate of unemployment of political scientists is low in comparison to that for social scientists in general. The labour market is weakest for those who graduated in the subfield of international relations, while the strongest labour market is found for graduates in the subfields of public policy and methodology. The time that was needed between graduation and the finding of a job varied: nearly half found their job before graduation, while about 10% spent more than six months looking for their job. Compared with an earlier survey conducted in 1974, the greatest growth in employment occurred in the private business sector. In 1986, 26.7% of the graduates were working in the public sector, 21.9% in the education sector, 13% in the private business sector, 27.1% elsewhere, and 9.4% had no job. The correspondence between the knowledge acquired in the courses at the universities and the practical skills that are needed for the job is high for those who are employed in jobs for which a political scientist was specifically sought. However, only 16.5% of the graduates worked in such a job [3].

The following table gives an indication of the positions held by the Dutch political science graduates.

Table: Jobs of Dutch graduates in political science

Nature of position	graduates *	graduates **
	period 1-1-1972/ 1-10-1973	period 1-8-1984/ 1-8-1986
	number (%)	number (%)
Government		
national government	10	34
city, province, corporate bodies	9	24
international organizations	1	1
<i>Subtotal: government</i>	20 (22.5)	59 (26.3)
Private sector		
industry, trade, banks, insurance companies	5	15
consultancy and other private companies	2	14
<i>Subtotal: private sector</i>	7 (7.9)	29 (12.9)
Education		
university education	16	38
secondary education and remaining education	13	11
<i>Subtotal: education</i>	29 (32.6)	49 (21.9)
Other positions		
employers organizations, trade unions	1	4
private institutions, societies, foundations	13	27
social work	1	-
scientific research institutes	3	8
research bureaux of political parties	-	5
member of Second Chamber (parliament)	-	6
press, radio and TV	4	7
self employed persons	1	5
military service	3	3
remaining (without job, housewife, unknown)	7	22
<i>Subtotal: other</i>	33 (37.1)	87 (38.8)
TOTAL	89 (100)	224 (100)

* time of measurement approximately Autumn 1984 to Spring 1985

** time of measurement December 1986

Sources: *Acta Politica* X, January 1975, p. 59; *ibid.* XXII, July 1987, p. 342/343

The table shows that a large number of political scientists are working in what we call the "non-academic professional practice". In the board of the Dutch Political Science Association, which consists of ten members, there are two representative of this large group. To the seven sub-divisions of the association belong one section for Political education and another section for Political scientists in the non-academic professional practice. Objects of discussion are the interfaces between the knowledge of political science and the possibilities for making good use of this information in practice.

Structure and activities of the Dutch Political Science Association

Board (or executive committee) of the association

The board of the Dutch Political Science Association reflects more or less the geographic spread of political science over the universities. The diversity of subfields in political science is also taken into account. Thirdly, the committee reflects the distinction between academic and non-academic professional practice. Of course, these requirements are not treated dogmatically. The members of the board are nominated and elected by the general meeting of the association, which gathers twice a year. The board meets twice a year unless there are urgent matters that must be handled; most items are taken care of by post. The initiators in these matters are usually the chairman and the secretary. The committee members are elected for a period of four years. They can be re-elected once. For reasons of continuity, a system is chosen whereby every year two or three committee members step down. At present the board of the Dutch Political Science Association consists of:

Chairman: Prof.dr. A. Hoogerwerf (University of Twente)
 Secretary: Drs. K.R.D. Lulofs (University of Twente)
 Members: Dr. C. van der Eijk (University of Amsterdam)
 Prof.dr. A.F.A. Korsten (Open University, Heerlen)
 Drs. J. de Lange (province Noord-Holland)
 Dr. J.H. Leurdijk (University of Amsterdam)
 Prof.dr. G. Lock (Catholic University of Nijmegen)
 Ms.dr. M. Leyenaar (University of Leyden)
 Prof.dr. M.P.C.M. van Schendelen (Erasmus University of Rotterdam)
 Ms. drs. J. Swiebel (Ministry for Social Affairs and Employment)

Conferences

The Dutch Political Science Association organizes a one and a half-day conference every year, usually in May. This conference is known as the "Political scientists' twenty-four hours", although, as mentioned, the conference in recent years has tended to occupy more than 24 hours. Usually, seven workshops are organised on subjects in the sub-fields of political science. The initiators may be the chairmen of our sub-divisions but could also be also individual members. The proposed workshops have to be accepted by the board of the association before they can be held at the conference. In every workshop there are approximately six paper-givers and six co-referents. There is also a plenary meeting with one or two lectures by well-known political scientists. This year the central theme of the general scientific meeting is the agenda of Dutch political science in the nineties. During these two days, the board of the association assembles and there is a "general member meeting". Besides the official programme, a lot of time is available for informal contacts with fellow political scientists. Usually about a hundred political scientists take part in the conference. Our association grants an award for the best publication of the past year. At the one and a half-day conference the jury grants the annual award for the chosen Dutch political science book or article. A second conference is organized every year in November. This is a one-day conference.

Acta Politica, Journal of Political Science

The journal *Acta Politica* is published four times a year. Besides articles and reviews, most of them in Dutch, it contains English summaries of the articles. Members of the

Dutch Political Science Association are automatically subscribed to *Acta Politica*. If you want to offer a contribution to the journal, please contact the secretary of the editors: Drs. K. Koch, Vakgroep Politieke Wetenschappen, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Postbus 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, The Netherlands. Complimentary copies for review in *Acta Politica* can be sent to our book-editor: Dr. R.H. Lieshout, Universiteit of Twente, Postbus 217, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands.

The sub-divisions of the Dutch Political Science Association

Members of the Dutch Political Science Association can join one or more sub-divisions of the association. The main goal of a sub-division is to encourage in the Netherlands the interest in and practice of the study of politics in the broadest sense, as well as to encourage the utilization of the knowledge of political science professionally, in the working area of the sub-division. Each sub-division is led by a chairman who is elected by the members of that sub-division. The tasks of a sub-division are:

1. to propose to the committee and organize one or more workshops at the yearly conference in May;
2. to organize every year one or more scientific meetings in the specific working area;
3. to provide, to gather and to exchange information on the specific working area of the sub-division, in the Netherlands as well as internationally.

The seven current sub-divisions are:

1. Women and politics. Chairman: ms. prof.dr. J. Outshoorn (University of Leyden).
2. Political scientists in the non-academic professional practice. Chairman: drs. W.J. Dectman (Member of parliament, President of the Second Chamber).
3. Political education. Chairman: prof. dr. ing. J.W. van Deth (University of Nijmegen).
4. Dutch political system and Dutch politics. Chairman: prof. dr. R.B. Andeweg (University of Leyden).
5. International relations. Chairman: dr. H. Leurdijk (University of Amsterdam).
6. Political theories. Chairman: prof. dr. G. Lock (Catholic University of Nijmegen).
7. Public administration and policy science. Chairman: prof. dr. J.Th.A. Bressers (University of Twente).

For further information on the Dutch PSA, contact its secretariat, whose address is: Drs. K. R. D. Lulofs, Universiteit Twente, faculteit Bestuurskunde, Vakgroep Politicologie, Postbus 217, 7500 AE Enschede, The Netherlands.

References

1. Paris, 1950.
2. A. Hoogerwerf, in W. G. Andrews (ed.), *International Handbook of Political Science*, Westport/London, 1982, pp. 227-246.
3. W. K. F. Rodenhuis, "Jonge politicologen aan het woord over hun opleiding en werkring", *Acta Politica* XXII (July 1987), pp. 327-47.

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