

MINUTES

RC05: Comparative Studies on Local Government and Politics

Business Meeting

July 15th, 2025. 12:45–13:45

Coex Convention Center, IPSA World Congress, Seoul

Chair: Carmen Navarro (RC05 Chair)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Business Meeting began with a lunch generously sponsored by SSEGOV (Association of Korean Local Governments for Social Economy and Solidarity). The Chair, Carmen Navarro, welcomed participants and introduced Mr. Young Kim, Executive Director of SSEGOV, who delivered a presentation on the Association's initiatives supporting social economy and solidarity practices across Korean local governments.

The meeting was attended by 38 participants, including RC05 Executive Committee members, RC05 members, panel convenors, and interested scholars from various countries and institutions.

2. Chair's Report on RC05 Activities (2023–2025)

The Chair provided an overview of RC05's main activities during the previous period of two years:

- **Sponsorship and Organization of RC05 Panels at the IPSA World Congress (Seoul, 2025):** RC05 sponsored 10 panels during the Congress, covering a wide array of topics including local democracy, smart cities, inter-governmental relations, local state capacity, SDGs, local governments and climate resilience and local democracy as a bastion against democratic backsliding. This level of participation exceeds the average number of panels sponsored by RCs. The panels brought together scholars from diverse disciplines and geographical areas, reinforcing RC05's commitment to comparative and international approaches. The Chair thanked all panel convenors, chairs and discussants for their great work and commitment in making the panels a success.
- As part of RC05's commitment to supporting the next generation of researchers in the field, two **Travel Grants for PhD students were awarded to doctoral students to attend the EURA/ECPR Graduate Summer School** on Local Government and Politics (Barcelona, 2024). The grants enabled the attendance of [two PhD candidates from Brazil and Argentina](#).
- **Global Mapping of Scholars Working on Local Government and Politics.** Following the agreement reached at the RC05 Business Meeting in Buenos Aires (July 2023), a global mapping project was launched to identify and connect scholars working on local government and politics. Led by Carmen Navarro and Daniel Cravacuore, the initiative has resulted in a database of 1,665 scholars, compiled through systematic searches on academic platforms. The [survey](#) sent to gather information explores disciplinary backgrounds, thematic orientations, and the evolution of research agendas in the field. The project is ongoing and has so far received responses from 472 scholars. As one of the outcomes of this initiative, a WhatsApp

group has been created, currently involving 280 members, which is serving as a space for sharing publications, calls for papers, academic initiatives, and information requests among local governance scholars worldwide.

- **Ongoing Efforts to Improve and Maintain the RC05 Website:** The RC05 website (<http://rc05.ipsa.org>) is undergoing a redesign aimed at improving navigation, accessibility, and visibility of the committee's activities. A new, more attractive and user-friendly draft version of the site has been developed and is available at <https://luisaugustoveralui.wixsite.com/misitio>. During the meeting, the Chair asked for and got the support of participants to request that IPSA allow RC05 to officially adopt this new version as its primary website, replacing the default IPSA-hosted template.
- **Other academic activities.** Sponsorship of a Panel at the GIGAPP International Conference (Madrid, September 2024). RC05 sponsored a panel at the GIGAPP International Conference on Government, Administration, and Public Policy, held in Madrid on September 23rd, 2024. The panel, titled "*Comparative Perspectives on Local Government and Multilevel Governance*," brought together scholars from different. RC05 has also participated with a chapter in an IPSA edited volume launched by Carmelo Cataffi (IPSA RCs liaison), including contributions from scholars

3. Election of New Members to the Executive Committee

Two new members were elected to the RC05 Executive Committee:

- Jill L. Tao (Incheon National University, South Korea)
- Chris Tapscott (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)

They replace Filipe Teles (University Aveiro) and Klaus Frei (Federal University ABC, Brazil) who now join the RC05 Advisory Board. The committee warmly thanks them for their service and contributions during their time on the Executive Committee.

4. Plans for 2025–2027

The Chair presented the RC05 action plan for the 2025–2027 period. It was approved.

- Sponsorship of panels at the IPSA World Congress 2027 in Rome.
- Two Travel Grants for PhD students to attend the 2026 Summer School on Local Government and Politics
- Continued development of the global scholar mapping initiative and consolidation of the database from the Global Survey.
- Implementation of the new RC05 website
- Hosting and sponsoring additional academic events.
- Launch of a new RC05 Award for Excellence in Local Government and Politics Research. This award is conceived as a tribute to outstanding scholars whose academic careers have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of local government and politics internationally.

It will recognize senior researchers, whose work has shaped the discipline through publications, mentorship, and active engagement in international academic networks. The award will be granted biennially, with the first edition planned to coincide with the IPSA World Congress in Rome (2027). Details on nomination procedures and selection criteria will be discussed and agreed at the Executive Committee.

5. Discussion and proposals from the audience

During the open discussion, participants shared ideas and proposals to guide RC05's future activities and expand its impact. One suggestion was to establish closer collaboration with associations of municipalities and professional organizations of local government practitioners. It was proposed to explore the organization of a side event at the IPSA World Congress in Rome (2027), jointly with these type of associations, focused on a specific topic of shared interest.

Additionally, the idea of launching an award for the best research publication in the field of local government and politics was raised, aimed at recognizing recent and high-quality scholarly work.