

## Call for Papers

### **Federalism and the Global Financial Crisis: Impacts and Responses**

A 2010 Concurrent Meeting of the  
International Association of Centers for Federal Studies  
and  
IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Federalism and Federations  
at  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America  
**16-18 September 2010**

Co-Hosted by the  
Center for State Constitutional Studies, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey  
and  
Center for the Study of Federalism at the Robert B. & Helen S. Meyner Center for the  
Study of State and Local Government, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania

Papers should focus on the impacts of the 2008-2009 global financial crisis on federal systems and on how federal systems have responded to the crisis. Papers can focus on a single federal country, on more than one federal country, on comparisons of federal and non-federal countries, or on the European Union as a quasi-federal system. We assume that most papers will focus on a single country; therefore, the following template reflects that focus. Papers covering more than one federal country or the EU can adapt the template accordingly.

#### Problems and Impacts

- When did the financial crisis occur in your country and what were its major causes? Was your country affected early or late compared to other federal countries?
- From the onset of the crisis to August 2010, what changes occurred in your country's GDP, unemployment rates, stock prices, and other common economic indicators?
- From the onset of the crisis to August 2010, what impacts did the crisis have on national, regional (i.e., state, provincial, or cantonal), and local revenues, expenditures, budget priorities, borrowing, and deficit spending?
- Were some sectors of your country's economy affected more severely by the crisis than other sectors?
- For members of the EU, and especially the Euro zone, how did membership in the EU affect, aggravate, or mitigate the impacts of the financial crisis on your country?
- Were some national, regional, and/or local public/government services affected more severely than others?
- Were some sectors of your country's population and/or some regions and/or localities affected more severely by the financial crisis than others?
- What impacts did the crisis have on national, regional, and local social welfare and education spending and services in your country?

- What impacts did the crisis have on the levels and nature of intergovernmental transfers, intergovernmental borrowing and loans, and fiscal equalization in your federal system?
- What impacts did the financial crisis have on federal, regional, and local regulatory agencies in your country, especially their capacity to cope with the crisis?
- Did the crisis cause or exacerbate tensions or conflicts between regions, localities, or territorially based ethnic, nationality, linguistic, or religious communities in your country?
- Did the financial crisis cause, increase, or decrease competition between regions and/or localities in your country?
- Did the crisis increase, slow down, or reverse immigration into your country?
- What impacts did the crisis have on the electoral fortunes of national, regional, and/or local officials and political parties?
- What impacts did the financial crisis have on the legitimacy of government and on the public's trust and confidence in governments in your country?
- Overall, what, if any, long-term impacts is the global financial crisis likely to have on the federal system in your country?
- Overall, as well, how did the federal features of your country serve to aggravate and/or ameliorate the impacts of the financial crisis on your country? In other words, was federalism an asset or a liability?

### Responses

- What roles did the national, regional, and local governments play in responding to the financial crisis? Which order of government was the leading responder?
- For EU member countries, how did EU responses to the crisis affect your country and how much impact did your country have on the EU's responses to the financial crisis?
- Did the financial crisis require or elicit any constitutional changes in your country?
- In terms of the national government, what roles did the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions play in responding to the financial crisis?
- In terms of the regional governments, what roles did the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions play in responding to the financial crisis?
- In terms of the local governments, what roles did the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions play in responding to the financial crisis?
- What monetary, fiscal, regulatory, and other policies were developed to respond to the crisis, and which governments deployed those policies—when and how?
- Have your country's responses to the crisis been accompanied by significant political changes, such as the rise of new leaders, political parties, coalitions, or pressure groups in the national government or regional and local governments?
- Has your country's responses to the crisis changed the distribution of powers in the federal system or otherwise altered the balance of power among the national, regional, and local governments?
- How have your country's responses to the crisis affected the fiscal capacities of the national, regional, and local governments to raise revenue in order to carry out their functions?

- Have your country's responses to the crisis increased or decreased intergovernmental transfers and fiscal equalization?
- How have your country's responses to the crisis affected intergovernmental (i.e., national-regional-local) relations and interjurisdictional relations (i.e., region-region and local-local competition and cooperation) by, for instance, increasing or decreasing cooperation, collaboration, competition, conflict, coercion, or collusion?
- Have your country's responses to the crisis increased or decreased tensions or conflicts between ethnic, nationality, linguistic, or religious groups and territorially based communities in your country?
- Have your country's responses to the crisis advantaged or disadvantaged particular groups in your country?
- Have your country's responses to the crisis been generally accepted by the people and by the relevant courts?
- Have your country's responses to the financial crisis been generally effective or ineffective?
- Overall, did the federal system of your country demonstrate a capacity and resilience to cope with the financial crisis or was it mostly overwhelmed by the crisis?
- Overall, what responses are likely to be institutionalized for the long-term and which responses are likely to be short-term and non-enduring?
- Overall, as well, how did the federal features of your country foster or hinder effective policy responses to the financial crisis in your country?

The above template is intended to be a guide, not a rigid formula, for the papers. It is not, of course, necessary to cover all of the points listed above in your paper. Focus on the most salient points for your country or subject. Also given that the financial crisis affected the world's various regions and countries differently, the crisis offers paper presenters an opportunity to test various theories of globalization in relation to federal systems.

If you wish to present a paper to the IACFS meeting, please send a brief proposal with title and authorship no later than 22 March 2010 to John Kincaid ([meynerc@lafayette.edu](mailto:meynerc@lafayette.edu)), G. Alan Tarr ([tarr@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:tarr@camden.rutgers.edu)), and Sonja Walti ([walti@american.edu](mailto:walti@american.edu)).

Philadelphia has been hosting historic meetings since 1776. We hope you will participate in this historic meeting.