

RC 53 Newsletter

Indigenous Politics
July 2026

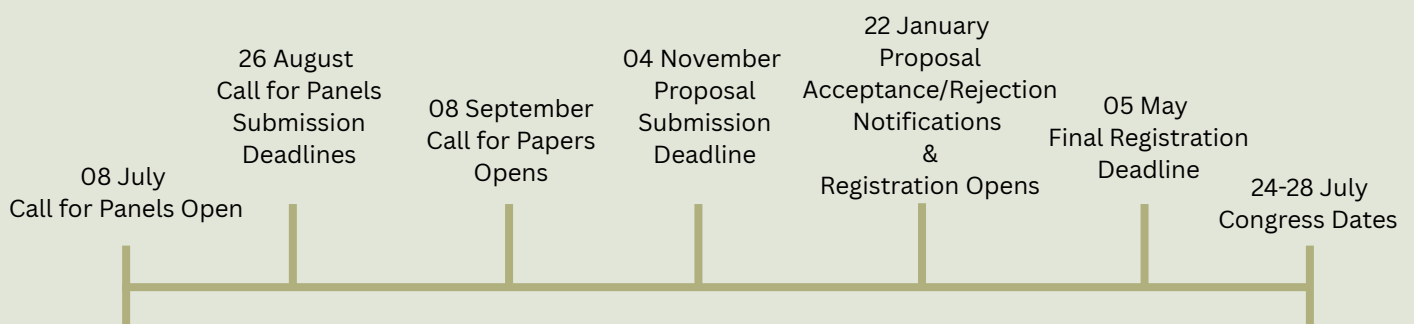
2027 IPSA World Congress Updates

The 2027 IPSA World Congress of Political Science will be held at Luiss Guido Carli in Rome, Italy, from 24-28 July 2027 as a fully in-person event.

Organized in collaboration with Luiss and the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP), the Congress will mark IPSA's return to Rome for the first time since 1958 and will be held under the theme **Uncertain Democracies: Rethinking Governance in a Changing Global System**.

If you are interested in facilitating or assisting with a panel, please get in touch. Additionally, RC53 is also open to Closed-Panel submissions.

Important Dates



Highlights

- IPSA World Congress Update
- Governance Review
- Meet the RC53 Team
- Recent Publications

[Click here for Congress Info](#)

Meet the RC53 Committee *Aanchal Seth*



Who are you and Where are your Based?

I am Aanchal Seth, a final-year doctoral researcher at Panjab University, Chandigarh and a resident of Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, India.

What sparked your interests in Indigenous politics?

The right of Indigenous Peoples to make decisions over their own land, water, and air sparked my interest. One question I continue to explore navigating in my field study is who governs these lands, and what role Indigenous communities play in managing their own sacred land.

As I delved deeper, I have found that whilst the Forest Rights law exists, political dynamics have complicated its implementation even after 20 years. This led me to examine how marginalised communities in Himachal Pradesh are navigating their forest land rights, particularly in the remote valleys of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur.

What are your currently working on?

Being born and brought up in rural mountainous areas gave me a sense of why marginality is more important than ever. This curiosity, since childhood, became a reality when I started working on Indigenous Forest Rights in Himachal as part of my PhD. I work on Indigenous rights to forests, environmental governance, human rights, and mountain communities. I have also started working on climate mitigation strategies for my hometown, side by side.

Meet the RC53 Commitee

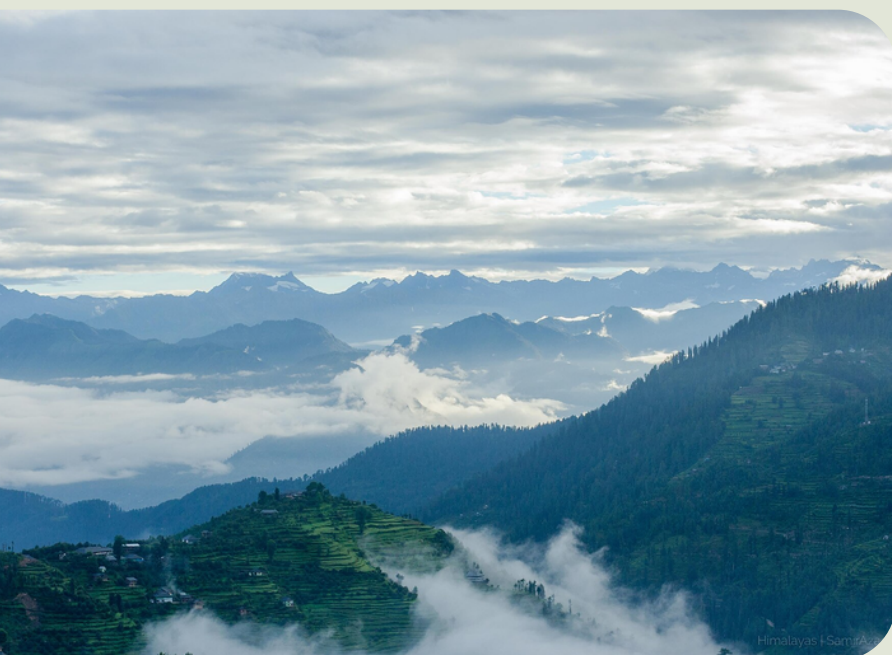
Aanchal Seth

What is one book, article, or piece of media on Indigenous politics that you would recommend everyone read, watch, or engage with, and why?

For me, an important piece is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Everyone should read, engage, and consult it to understand that Indigenous Peoples have their own rights that should be at the utmost priority of any state policies, research and teaching. As said in Article 2 of the United Nations Declaration, "Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity".

What advice would you give to your fellow post-grad students?

To fellow post-grad students, my advice is to start by analysing research at the micro level to understand the meso and macro arenas. This helps identify the problem statement and brings coherence to define the objectives.



Samir Azad "Great Himalayan National Park, Kullu, Himachal"

Journal Submissions

Governance Review is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal publishing theoretical, empirical, and critical research on governance worldwide. It promotes diverse approaches and advances both scholarly and public understanding of contemporary governance.

Governance Review is now accepting submissions. RC53 Chair A/Prof Lara Greaves was recently invited to join the journal's editorial board, reflecting the journal's growing engagement with Indigenous politics.

[Click here](#) to access the author instructions and submission site.

Recent Publications in Indigenous Politics

If you have published a paper on Indigenous Politics within the last 2 years, we are more than happy to share that information via the newsletter. Please email us!

Albertus, M. (2026). Adhering Indigenous Communities to the State: Recognition Politics During Civil Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 0(0).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002726143906>

Baker, M. (2026) 'Native and Indigenous Feminisms in North America' (9 Apr. 2026), in Amanda Capern (ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Gender and Women's History*. New York: Oxford Academic.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197852675.003.0101>.

Ballangarry, J., Ridge, A., & Thomson, J. (2026). "2: First Nations and Feminist Approaches to Foreign Policy in Australia". In *Feminist Foreign Policy*. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press. <https://doi.org/10.51952/9781529247862.ch002>

Doyle, M. (2026). *Decolonizing the state: Indigenous politics and the limits of Bolivian Plurinationalism*. Manchester University Press.

Foxworth, R., Boulding, C., Maddison, S., & Beauvais, E. (2026). Anti-Indigenous attitudes and divided support: the Indigenous voice and public opinion in Australia. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2026.2658785>.

Henderson, P. (2026). Who Needs Decolonization?: Theorizing Anticolonial Worldmaking Through Movement Memos. *New Political Science*, 48 (2): 272–295.
<https://doi.org/10.1215/O7393148-12325130>

Mohammadpour, A. (2026). Dispossessed geographies: Statelessness and eco-resistance in Rojhelat. *Political Geography*, 128.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2026.103556>.

Rojas, C. (2026). "8: Defending the Divergent Co-existence Between Ayllu Communities and the Colonial State in Bolivia: An Ontological Reading of Resistance Against Colonial Liberalism". In *Indomitable Others and Liberal Violences*. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press. <https://doi.org/10.51952/9781529244403.ch008>

Seth, A. (2025). Whose Justice? Forest Rights, Civil Society, and the Remaking of Environmental Governance in the Western Himalayas. *Journal of Academics Stand Against Poverty*, 7(Special Issue), 19–34. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18047176>

Sherwin D, Hutton Ferris D. Decolonizing Democratic Theory: A Democratic Case for Unelected Indigenous Governments. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. 1–26.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423925100978>

Warren, J. (2026). How Administrative Policymaking Fails Alaska Native Subsistence Fishers — and What to Do About It. *Center for Governance and Markets*, GDD16–2025.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6117586>

RC 53 Current Board Members:

Current Board Members:

Dr Lara Greaves, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand,
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