

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND NETWORKS

- ▶ The Grupo de História das Idéias e Conceitos Políticos (GHICP) has just launched its new website: <http://ghicp.iuperj.br>. The GHICP is a network of Brazilian researchers in the fields of social science and history committed to the discussion of the relationship between the history of concepts and the history of social and political ideas and to the improvement of the methodologies employed in the theories and histories of social and political thought. The website is the most recent of the initiatives undertaken by its members to foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and bibliographical references among researchers from institutions based in Brazil and abroad. The website features information on ongoing individual and collective research projects, as well as access to bibliographical references, articles, discussion pieces, event announcements, and useful links.
- ▶ Creation of the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Political Thought and Conceptual Change.

On June 23, 2005, the Academy of Finland awarded 23 Centres of Excellence for the period 2006-2011. Among the 7 new ones is the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Political Thought and Conceptual Change, the first politics-related Centre in the history of the Academy's programme. The Centre is located at the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of Jyväskylä. Professors Kari Palonen and Tuija Pulkkinen serve as leader and vice-leader of the Centre.

A website with more substantial information on research teams, events, visiting programme and so on will be presented later in the autumn at the website of the University of Jyväskylä <http://www.jyu.fi/indexeng.shtml>

The Centre will provide an organizational framework, a locus of intellectual encounters and discussion as well as an administrative basis for its 30 members and their research teams. Research will be

conducted by the individual scholars and through their mutual co-operation within research teams. The Centre encourages individual initiatives and personal profiles and promotes debate among different perspectives. The Centre consists of the following research teams: Political Thought and Conceptual History, Politics and the Arts and The Politics of Philosophy and Gender, Political thought and conceptual history, Politics and the Arts, The Politics of Philosophy and Gender, and Redescriptions. Yearbook of Political Thought and Conceptual History, which forms a fourth independent pillar of the Centre.

►The United Nations Intellectual History Project (UNIHP).

Ideas and concepts are a main driving force in human progress, and they are arguably the most important contribution of the United Nations. Yet, there has been little historical study of the origins and evolution of the history of economic and social ideas cultivated within the world organization and of their impact on wider thinking and international action. The United Nations Intellectual History Project (www.unhistory.org) is filling this knowledge gap about the UN by tracing the origin and analyzing the evolution of key ideas and concepts about international economic and social development born or nurtured under UN auspices. This “future-oriented” history project was designed to review the ideas and concepts that have emerged over the last half-century of United Nations debate, reports and actions in the economic and social arenas. The logic was that a broad ranging and independently researched UN intellectual history should not only provide an antidote to contemporary and ahistorical triumphalism (the end of “the end of history”) but also act as a guide for navigating the shoals of future challenges and crises to the international system. The UNIHP began operations in mid-1999 when the secretariat, the hub of a worldwide network of specialists on the UN, was established at the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies of The City University of New York’s Graduate Center. All fourteen of the volumes on economic and social development have been commissioned and are being published by Indiana University Press, in addition to one that will become the standard reference on the UN, published by Oxford University Press. The latest publications are UN Voices: The Struggle for Development and Social Justice,

which is based on 73 oral history interviews recorded by the project; and *The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the Last 60 Years*, a brief summary of the project's main conclusions. The project is actively disseminating its findings through publications, seminars, and conferences as widely as possible in order to stimulate debate on the importance of the UN in the 21st century and to stimulate additional exploration of the UN's record by academics and graduate students, by journalists and policy analysts, in both industrialized and developing countries.