



РАНХиГС
РОССИЙСКАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ НАРОДНОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА
И ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ СЛУЖБЫ
ПРИ ПРЕЗИДЕНТЕ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

W. Reisinger: Research in Political Science: Contending Approaches and Recent Trends

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From October 28-30, 2014, the Center for Russian Studies, in the Institute of Social Science at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, hosted William M. Reisinger, Professor of Political Science (University of Iowa), who received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, and whose research concerns politics in the former

communist states. He teaches courses on democratization, authoritarian politics, and the politics of post-communist countries.

His first lecture was on fundamental and current understandings in US political science, with a focus on the "science" in political science publications. He underscored the importance of schools of thought in political science, including the cultural, rational factor, behavioral and institutional approaches. He also presented new trends in publications, covering spatial analysis, long-run genetic influences on political behavior, and "hot" cognition.

His second lecture asked: What practical steps are taken for international publication in the field? Here he emphasized quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, and went through evaluation procedures and questions in the review of political research submissions.



In his third lecture, Professor Reisinger presented his own research on mass democratic values in Russia's regions. He presented the results of surveys he and his colleagues developed, including the diversity of ways that respondents understand the term democracy. Do differences in public opinion among Russia's regions affect voting behavior and measures of the level of democracy in the regions? His presentation showed results on a map of some of these connections.

Stronger democratic values in a region tended to push the region towards voting for democracy, but they did not offset other influences in all cases.