



Vale Jean Laponce 1925–2016

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The *IPSR* editors are sad to announce the death of Jean Laponce, involved in IPSA from its beginnings and passionately committed to developing and strengthening an international political science community. He was responsible for two very significant initiatives while he was IPSA president (1973-76). One was to propose that IPSA create its own journal. The other was the decision to support the development of political science in the Soviet Union by holding the 1979 IPSA Congress in Moscow.

In 1976 the IPSA Council responded to Laponce's suggestion to establish a journal by mandating him to investigate its feasibility. After four years of planning the journal came into being in 1980, with John Meisel as its founding editor. Laponce was never far away and he joined Meisel as co-editor in 1985, a position he held until 2002.

In his many years as editor and on the IPSA executive committee he was helping to build bridges between East and West and maintaining personal friendships in countries around the world. He was also responsible for the creation of two IPSA Research Committees: political geography (RC 15) and the politics of language (RC50). He became invaluable as a font of knowledge on the arcane workings of IPSA.

Past and present *IPSR* editors have benefited immensely from the legacy of Jean Laponce, the journal's godfather and longest-serving editor. We try to emulate his openness to new ideas and new sources of knowledge, while maintaining his commitment to high standards of scholarship. A symbol of the editors' high regard for Jean is that we have named the award made every four years for the best article published in *IPSR* the Meisel-Laponce Award.

Theresa Reidy and Marian Sawyer
IPSR co-editors