



Letter from the Editor,

Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the second issue of the *Ibero-American Journal of Legislative Studies* – *RIEL*. Since the late 2011 the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) has been in charge of editing RIEL, which from now on will be published as an electronic journal only.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the former editor, Fabiano Santos, and the former editorial managers, Magna Ignácio, Gustavo Grohmann, and Lucio Renno, of the RIEL for the smooth transition and encouragement. At the same time, I am pleased to announce the new members of the managing editorial board who will work with me in editing and publishing the new issues of the RIEL. There they are: Alejandro Bonvecchi (Universidad Torcuato Di Tella), Mercedes Garcia Montero (Universidad de Salamanca), and Lucio Renno (Universidade Federal de Brasília).

The RIEL will continue to be an international journal mainly devoted to the publication of original studies and research on legislative issues and problems. Nevertheless, I would also like to stress that RIEL will have, henceforth, a much broader scope. Therefore, we encourage new submissions that include other topics related to comparative politics and political institutions having to do with the executive branch, the judiciary, political parties, media, electoral rules, federalism, and so forth.

In this new issue we have put together a group of excellent original articles. Ernesto Calvo and Marcelo Leiras, for instance, analyze the effort of Argentinean legislators to nationalize legislative initiatives by investigating the extent to which legislators from the same political party collaborate via cosponsoring new legislation. Miguel Carreras reviews the explosion of academic production about executive-legislative relations in Latin America witnessed in the last decade and emphasizes the inconsistencies between mainstream theoretical approaches and the reality of executive-legislative relations in the region. Alvaro Barreto compares the probability of legislators' electoral success in Brazil using different measures of electoral competition and individual performance in office. Fabiano Pegurier studies the evolution of political career choices of Brazilian legislators from 1945 to 2006 and demonstrates that high reelection rates are better explained by political ambition than the professionalization of the Chamber of Deputies. Finally, we have the article by Suely Araujo and Rafael Silveira e Silva, which demonstrates that although the executive dominates the Brazilian Congress, legislators do indeed exercise lawmaking influence through the amendment process.

I hope you will enjoy this new issue of RIEL and consider submitting your future work to this promising academic venue.

With my best regards,

Carlos Pereira
PROFESSOR, GETULIO VARGAS FOUNDATION