Call for Papers

SPP JERUSALEM CONFERENCE 2023

"The First Sketch of History: Audio-visual Collections in Parliamentary and Political Archives"

30 May–1 June 2023

The Knesset, Jerusalem

The Annual Meeting of the ICA Section of Archives of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP) will be held in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in conjunction with the SPP-ICA Conference that will take place from 30 May to 1 June 2023.

This will be the first face-to-face conference since the pandemic and the first in-person event for all SPP members since 2015.

Iconic Israeli photographer, David Rubinger (1924–2017), once told an interviewer that “a picture is the first sketch of history,” and added that “the less important it is, the more important it is.” Audio-visual collections in parliamentary and political archives are an essential part of the history of our institutions. The visual documentation tells us a story beyond the particular moment captured in the photograph—it sheds light on the place, the time period, the trends, and the zeitgeist.
Topics of interest might include:

- The use of audio-visual collections in exhibitions, the press, books, documentaries, and feature films
- Maintenance and management of physical and digital collections
- Staff photographers compared to press photographers
- Parliamentary television channels
- Technology and artificial intelligence at the service of the audio-visual collections

Proposals can be:

- Individual contributions—presentations of 20 minutes
- Panel sessions—up to three speakers presenting papers on a specific theme or topic
- 60-minute workshop—a longer session that will include a practical element and a presentation

The working language of the conference will be English. Any member of SPP-ICA can submit a paper. Contributions from around the world are welcome. Please send the submission to indan@knesset.gov.il.

Key dates:

- Submission deadline: 15/2/2023
- Invitations to speakers will be sent the week of 12 March 2023 and the program will be announced shortly after.
- Registration deadline: 15/4/2023

We look forward to meeting you in Jerusalem.

Inda Novominsky
Director of Knesset Archives