

APSR Announces New Publication Format

The *American Political Science Review* (APSR) announces a new publication format, Letters. APSR's traditional publication format of research manuscripts uses original work to advance the understanding of important political issues that are of general interest to the field of political science (maximum length 12,000 words). In contrast, Letters will address an important research problem or question, showing a novel perspective on existing research and encouraging scholarly debate in the discipline (maximum length 4,000 words).

With this new format, APSR is taking a new direction to publish important insights into research problems in political science. Some of these insights might not fit in the traditional, longer format of manuscripts, but fit well with the shorter format that is often used in other sciences to convey important new findings.

"The Letter format is very common in prominent scientific journals of more general interest, such as *Science* and *Nature*, where significant findings are often reported on 5 to 6 pages," explained lead editor, Thomas Koening, University of Mannheim. "The new Letter format of APSR accordingly attempts to increase the interdisciplinary recognition by broadening readership and eventually authorship from scholars of other disciplines that address an important research problem in political science," he continued.

The editorial team noted two reasons for their decision to offer this new Letter format. The first is a substantive reason. While APSR presents various disciplinary developments in the subfields of political science, these subfields also strive to develop alongside their counterparts in related disciplines. Letters will provide an opportunity to report about original research that move these subfields forward and reach a broader readership. This includes, but is not limited to, a new theoretical perspective, methodological progress, and alternative empirical findings, as well as comments on and extensions of existing



work. A Letter typically will have only a few figures and tables that directly communicate the new insights and the main takeaways from the research.

The second reason is that the format of APSR has changed in the past, for example, with the move of book reviews previously published in APSR to APSA's *Perspectives on Politics*. The editors want to use this space to raise the attractiveness of APSR to diverse scholarly research. Although Letters will be peer reviewed like manuscripts, the difference in length means that Letters are going to be much more focused on one important result.

"Typically, a Letter will not have the long literature review that is standard in manuscripts and will have a much briefer introduction, motivation, analysis, and conclusion," stressed Koening. "We hope that this new format will stimulate scholarly discussion and disseminate findings that would otherwise be ignored in and outside of political science."

The APSR editors encourage authors to submit original papers that address an important research problem or question, showing a novel perspective on existing research and encouraging scholarly debate in the discipline to the new Letters format. See more details at www.apsanet.org/apsr. ■



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