Notes from the Editors

On August 25, 2016, we started our editorship of the *Review*. During these first ten months, we processed a record high number of submissions—999 new manuscripts, 92 revisions, and 157 manuscripts already under review from the previous team. In addition to introducing early online publication through FirstView and *Letters* as a new publication format, we changed the editorial process to reduce turnaround duration and reviewer fatigue. For the first time since 2012/13, the time spent from submission to editor decision decreased. We also decided to increase the amount of desk rejections which further reduced overall turnaround times and increased the share of invited reviewers per manuscript. We note that the increase in desk rejections was compensated by a decrease of rejections after review.

Compared to these encouraging numbers, the distribution of submissions and acceptances across fields and methods remained relatively stable. Comparative politics papers still dominate our submission sample, followed by American politics, normative political theory, and international relations. Quantitative studies lead in terms of approach, but interpretative studies come second, followed by qualitative and formal studies at much lower levels. We also observe that the share of male contributions is slightly decreasing and compensated by submissions from mixed gender teams of authors.

Apart from these numbers, which we will provide in more detail in our Editorial Report as part of our promise to increase transparency of the editorial process, we notice a declining trend in the two-year impact factor of the *Review*. Over time, FirstView should help to change this declining visibility trend, which started after 2012. On closer inspection, we also find that the five-year impact factor of the *Review* continues to rise and that our pluralist publication strategy, which includes publishing in all subfields and methods in political science, increases the long-term visibility of our publications.

We have received applause and criticism in the past ten months of our editorship. Unsurprisingly, these two kinds of responses highly correlate with outcomes, but we intend to continue with our transparency policy, which includes the provision of data and materials of *APSR* articles. We continue to collaborate with APSA and Cambridge University Press to incorporate tools which may increase transparency and ease of use of our publications, such as Overleaf and Dataverse. We are curious about how our authors respond to these innovations, as we already observe an increasing number of letters submissions, which may also expand our interdisciplinary author- and readership.

This issue starts off with an article tackling the role of the middle class in democratization. The following article then examines the different dynamics of voter turnout in new democracies. We move on to articles on state development more generally examining various questions concerning the importance of institutions as well as the reasons for unfinished development projects more specifically. After learning about a new interpretation of Habermas’s perspective on religion, the following articles deal with aspects of partisanship both from a conceptual perspective as well as from an empirical perspective on policy uptake. The next article presents novel empirical evidence on the question of economic voting. We have three distinctive articles on violence and conflict, ranging from explaining redemptive violence in Jacobin political thought, the effects of mass killings on property transfers, and a new understanding Kant’s anticolonialism as securing peace in Europe and not for humanitarian reasons. Our final piece, which is the first letter we are publishing, introduces a new tool to help researchers use crowdsourced coding and measures of political texts.

A rising middle class has been associated with democratization, but the literature is limited concerning which middle class groups contribute most toward that goal, especially in nondemocratic settings. In her study, “Reevaluating the Middle-Class Protest Paradigm: A Case-Control Study of Democratic Protest Coalitions in Russia,” Bryn Rosenfeld argues that by splitting the middle class into state- and private-sector workers, we can disentangle countries which are more likely to experience democratization and those not. Pivotal to her argument is the condition that state-dependent workers weaken support for democratization, especially in countries with a large public sector. Using surveys conducted in Russia during mass demonstrations after the 2011–2012 elections and population data, her results show that public-sector workers were less likely to mobilize, even when controlling for ideology. Not only does she introduce a new approach to studying protests in case-control methods of epidemiology, but also the implications of her research, that the middle class can have a much more diverse effect on democratization than previously believed, could have profound effects for the stability of authoritarian regimes and democratization in general.

Evidence since 1939 questions whether democratic consolidation is the culprit of global declines in voter turnout. In “Does Democratic Consolidation Lead to a Decline in Voter Turnout? Global Evidence Since 1939,” a study of worldwide legislative elections between 1939 and 2015, Filip Kostelka argues against this perspective by disentangling the various dynamics of voting rates in new democracies and comparing them to similar dynamics in established democracies. In a democratization context, he contends, there is a surge of voter turnout that subsides over time as its salience decreases and the rates return to a normal baseline. In terms of democratic consolidation, voter turnout decreases occur only in postcommunist countries. Finally, he demonstrates that new democracies only mirror their established counterparts, which have been have experienced declining voting rates since the 1970s.
In U.S. federal and state constitutions, the separation of powers is very pronounced with governors and assemblies having independent power bases. How did this hallmark of U.S. constitutions evolve? In his thought-provoking article, “Building a New Imperial State: The Strategic Foundations of Separation of Powers in America,” Sean Gailmard argues that to understand the origins of separation of powers in the U.S. we must look at the era of English colonies in North America. He argues that what nowadays is a natural institution, is the result of an institutional choice of a strategic English crown confronted with agency problems. To develop the argument, Gailmard sets up a formal model with repeated interactions of the crown, the governor, and the settlers. Interestingly, the model suggests that separation of powers was neither invoked to control the crown (by an assembly), nor invented by the crown to tie its own hands, but designed to empower settlers to restrain the governor. Why was this distinct form of a separation of powers unique to North America? The model suggests that unlike colonies that provided opportunities for natural resource extraction, economic growth in the North American colonies required investments of settlers in agriculture. In a broader perspective, Gailmard offers a new way of looking at the evolution of an important institution—a perspective that will certainly be taken up by research in a range of other, colonial or authoritarian, contexts of institutional choice.

Powersharing institutions are often proposed to stabilize countries recovering from armed conflict or those with deeply divided societies. Yet, we have little systematic evidence on what types of powersharing successfully foster democratic stability under different scenarios. In their article, “Safeguarding Democracy: Power-sharing and Democratic Survival,” Benjamin A.T. Graham, Michael K. Miller, and Kaare W. Strøm identify and distinguish between inclusive, dispersive, and constraining de jure powersharing institutions. Outlining their distinctive impact on democratic legitimacy and accountability, the authors derive specific expectations of how each type of powersharing is likely to affect democratic survival in general, but also in particular in postconflict societies. Using a global dataset from 1975–2010, their analyses show that only constraining powersharing, such as independent judiciaries and strong protections of civil rights and liberties, fosters democratic survival in all analyzed political contexts. Dispersive powersharing is shown to be harmful to democratic survival in postconflict societies, while inclusive powersharing improves the chances of democratic survival in such contexts. Their study highlights the importance of carefully differentiating and theorizing the impact of different policy instruments under various contexts, as the one-size-fits-all approach is not only ineffective but might even have a detrimental impact on societies.

Launching development projects is a popular endeavor among donor and recipient countries, but only a fraction of them is finished. The article, “The Political Economy of Unfinished Development Projects: Corruption, Clientelism, or Collective Choice?,” by Martin J. Williams derives observable implications from three competing explanations to improve our understanding of this phenomenon, namely whether unfinished projects in developing countries are a product of corruption in implementing the public services, misallocation of public expenditure, or the result of a collective choice process where political actors face commitment problems due to limited resources. The explanations are tested against an original dataset comprising information on 14,000 small-scale projects in Ghana. The author draws on rich qualitative knowledge about politics and decision making in Ghana and runs a series of models to comparatively test the three explanatory accounts. The study finds that collective choice processes suffering from inconsistencies account best for the data. While these findings have theoretical consequences, the practical consequences truly highlight the importance of this research, i.e., the extent to which wasteful expenditure in areas that need services harms communities and the impact of improved fiscal institution can have on monitoring project completion and mindful spending can have in these settings.

In his article, “Taking Religion Seriously? Habermas on Religious Translation and Cooperative Learning in Post-secular Society,” Giorgi Areshidze supports an innovative and challenging new interpretation of Habermas with a sympathetic and nuanced example of religious reasoning in public space. Areshidze examines Habermas’s recent attempt to “take religion seriously” by treating religious claims as potentially meaningful truths for public discussion. He argues, however, that although Habermas’s views do important work in laying bare the foundationalism (and what Areshidze calls the “theologically transformative presuppositions”) of Rawlsian liberalism, they, too, fail to consider how religious truths can be “lost in translation” as they are forced to articulate their views within “post-secular” societies. As an example of such translation issues, Areshidze examines Catholic reasons for supporting religious freedom, arguing that despite some overlap with secular justifications these reasons nevertheless are not exhausted by them.

Parties and partisanship have been subject of empirical research for decades. Recently, partisanship also became an increasingly important topic in normative political theory. A central line of research is about how partisanship can contribute to the functioning of a liberal democracy. While this is an important normative discussion in its own right, the criteria that are developed on the relationship between partisanship and liberal democracy are too unspecific to be used as benchmarks in empirical research. The article by Lise Ester Herman, “Democratic Partisanship: From Theoretical Ideal to Empirical Standard,” sets out to remedy this shortcoming. She develops a theoretical and conceptual framework that has “cohesiveness” and “respect for political pluralism” as the two main dimensions. Both dimensions are operationalized via multiple indicators whose benefit for empirical research is illustrated in the article.

Partisanship predicts a variety of political attitudes and different forms of political behavior. The article, “Policy Uptake as Political Behavior: Evidence
from the Affordable Care Act,” by Amy E. Lerman, Meredith L. Sadin, and Samuel Trachtman goes beyond existing research on partisanship by asking whether partisanship also explains policy uptake. Focusing on the United States, they examine whether Republicans and Democrats show different behavior in relation to Obamacare. The empirical analysis has two components. First, using longitudinal observational data, the authors show that Democrats are more likely to enroll in an insurance plan than Republicans. Second, in a large-scale field experiment, they analyze the mechanisms of policy uptake and find that the way in which Obamacare is described affects policy uptake. Altogether, the article indicates that partisanship plays an important role in U.S. politics, influencing how citizens respond to the opportunities that a policy offers.

Does the state of the economy influence voting behavior? In the article “Digging into the Pocketbook: Evidence on Economic Voting from Income Registry Data Matched to a Voter Survey,” Andrew J. Healy, Mikael Persson, and Erik Snowberg seek to answer this question by drawing on a unique Swedish dataset linking personal income records with a representative election survey. This gives the authors the opportunity to comparatively test arguments about sociotropic voting against arguments centered on pocketbook voting. The study points to the benefits of combining both data sources because the combination offers a better assessment of the argument that the economy is the more important driving force of voting behavior. Both explanations of voting seem to be equally relevant. Moreover, the study presents new insights on the sources of bias in economic evaluations and the question of whether income changes early or late in the government’s term matter more.

Kevin Duong turns to revolutionary French history as a means of extending disciplinary conversations about violence and sovereignty in his article, “The People as a Natural Disaster: Redemptive Violence in Jacobin Political Thought.” Examining the trial and execution of Louis XVI in 1792, Duong draws on both image and text to suggest that the lack of legal precedent for regicide prompts Jacobin thinkers to tie the king’s execution to a new exercise of popular agency—a form of “redemptive violence” that simultaneously dissolves the social body while reconstituting it. This article thus offers an outstanding example of how careful examination of a historical event can contribute to political theorizing that is both historically sensitive while offering lessons of contemporary relevance.

Volha Charnysh and Evgeny Finkel develop an interesting and carefully crafted research design to study an under-researched question: How do mass killings affect local property transfers? In their article, “The Death Camp Eldorado: Political and Economic Effects of Mass Violence,” they choose the Treblinka death camp in Poland to study the redistribution of wealth from the Jewish victims to the population living in the vicinity, due to the exogenous placement of the death camp and absence of alternative explanations for such property transfers in this case. Charnysh and Finkel create an original historical dataset on various luxury goods, productive assets, and housing to assess economic redistribution. Their results reveal that these property transfers had a highly localized impact and led to investments in new and better homes in the vicinity of the death camp. Their research also shows that higher proximity to the death camp had a long-term political impact, as communities near Treblinka exhibited higher electoral support for the anti-Semitic party, the League of Polish Families, in the 2001 election. This study shows how an innovative research design can utilize historical data to help us to understand questions with wide-ranging implications.

This richly sourced article draws on typically overlooked historical material, including correspondence and early drafts of Perpetual Peace, to advance a novel interpretation of Kant’s cosmopolitanism. Although Kant has long been known for promoting ideals of international peace, in her article, “It’s Not about Race: Good Wars, Bad Wars, and the Origins of Kant’s Anti-Colonialism,” Inés Valdez shows convincingly that such views must be examined alongside his claims about European international relations. From this juxtaposition emerges a new and important interpretive insight: Kant’s theory of cosmopolitan right was not aimed at securing humane treatment to the distant others that Europeans sought to subjugate, but rather to securing peace within Europe. His condemnation of colonialism was thus directed at subduing the intrastate rivalry that extraterritorial possessions created among European powers, and could exist, Valdez argues, without tension alongside a hierarchical race theory.

In the letter, “A Pairwise Comparison Framework for Fast, Flexible, and Reliable Human Coding of Political Texts,” David Carlson and Jacob M. Montgomery contribute to the growing field of research on crowdsourced coding for measuring and analyzing latent concepts in political texts. They do so by combining humans’ natural ability to understand natural language with the capacity of computers to automate tasks. By automating the workflow for coding text units in a series of tasks suitable for nonexperts, their SentimentIT framework makes it convenient to measure researcher-defined characteristics via pairwise comparisons of texts using human crowd coders, which can be recombined using statistical scaling of the comparisons. They validate their platform with advertisements from U.S. Senate candidates and State Department reports on human rights.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

The American Political Science Review (APSR) publishes scholarly research of exceptional merit, focusing on important issues and demonstrating the highest standards of excellence in conceptualization, exposition, methodology, and craftsmanship. A significant advance in the understanding of politics—whether empirical, interpretive, or theoretical—is the criterion for publication in the Review. Because the APSR reaches a diverse audience, authors must demonstrate how their
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the same reason, authors must make their work understandable to as many scholars as possible, consistent
with the nature of their material.

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ical rigor, and the feasibility of obtaining additional evidence.

Articles should be self-contained. Authors should not simply refer readers to other publications for de-
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ican National Election Study or Polity IV or others, is acceptable and does not require exhaustive descrip-
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The APSR fully expects authors to conform to generally accepted norms concerning the protection of hu-
man subjects, and the editors may require certification of appropriate institutional review.\footnote{One widely
accepted guide to such norms is given by the American Anthropological Association’s Code of Ethics, par-

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amounts of text that already have been published or are forthcoming in other places. In many cases, repub-
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thors should follow the guidelines for preparing an

\footnote{See http://www.data-pass.org/. Current Data-PASS members in-
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Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the Univer-
sity of Michigan, the Electronic and Special Media Records Service
Division, National Archives and Records Administration, the Roper
Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut,
the Social Science Data Archive at the University of California, Los
Angeles (UCLA), the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic
Research (CISER) at Cornell University, and the Qualitative Data
Repository at Syracuse University.}

Data Access, Production Transparency, and Analytic Transparency

The APSR expects authors to comply with the access and transparency obligations described on pp. 8–10 of
APSA’s A Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science (2012). Researchers have an ethical responsibil-
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develop their own interpretation from the materials. This involves providing access to the data or evidence
underlying their analysis, and achieving production and analytic transparency. All relevant materials should be
made available in a trusted digital repository (such as a partner in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social
Sciences (Data-PASS)) or through the APSR’s online appendices (housed with Cambridge University Press).\footnote{See
http://www.data-pass.org/. Current Data-PASS members include the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University, the Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan, the Electronic and Special Media Records Service Division, National Archives and Records Administration, the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut, the Social Science Data Archive at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER) at Cornell University, and the Qualitative Data Repository at Syracuse University.}

More specifically:

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plete citations to the evidence that support those claims in the reference section of the article; cita-
tions should include a “persistent identifier” (e.g., a “digital object identifier” or DOI). Authors should
also provide comprehensive documentation that describes the data or evidence in full (see below for more
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expected to make these data available if they themselves generated or collected them. However, if the protection of human subjects requires nondisclosure, if confidentiality agreements prohibit disclosure, if data are under legal constraint (i.e., they are classified, proprietary, or copyrighted), and/or if the logistical burden of sharing relevant data would be particularly high, the author will inform the editor at the time of submission. The editors can grant an exception with or without conditions, and may require an explanation of the restriction(s) prior to publication of the piece.

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These guidelines apply to all research in political science that combines evidence and analysis to reach conclusions. The APSR recognizes, however, that the general principles will be put into practice differently in different research traditions: different types of materials and information can be provided in different ways.

- For example, for survey research, along with providing the parts of the dataset that they analyzed, authors might provide sampling procedures, response rates, and question wordings; and a calculation of response rates according to one of the standard formulas given by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Standard: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys (Lenexa, KS: AAPOR, 2006). For observational data, authors should list the dataset in the reference section of their article, and provide the parts of the dataset that they analyzed.

- For example, for articles that analyze a qualitative dataset in aggregate (e.g., if using QCA/Is), authors should list the dataset in the reference section of their article, and provide the parts of the dataset that they analyzed. Where authors draw on individual data sources (e.g., books, interviews, newspaper articles, videos) as distinct inputs to the analysis, each source must be cited, and then listed in the reference section of their article. Whenever possible (within the confines of human subject protections and other exceptions mentioned in the section Data Access), authors should share the relevant fragment of sources that support contested or central empirical claims and make the original sources available to other researchers. If the evidence used to create the dataset or the individual sources were collected and/or generated by the author, she should provide a methodological appendix or section in the paper (that explains how the evidence was collected and/or generated and selected for citation), and all relevant evidence-collection instruments. These and analytical transparency requirements can be satisfied for qualitative research using individual sources by preparing a transparency appendix (TRAX) if the author chooses to do so.

- For example, to achieve transparency in experimental research, authors can provide full descriptions of experimental protocols, methods of subject recruitment and selection, payments to subjects, debriefing procedures, and so on.

Similarly, analytical transparency should be provided in ways that are relevant for the type of research that was undertaken, and the inferential and interpretive steps the author took to reach a conclusion.

At the time a manuscript is submitted to the APSR for review, authors must provide the main text, notes, bibliographic references, and any tables and diagrams. If they so choose (but this is not required), authors may also provide the underlying evidence, and information needed to achieve production and analytic transparency, as supplemental materials. These supplemental materials may be submitted as a file accompanying the manuscript submission or authors may provide a

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4 See http://www.aapor.org/standards.asp
5 A TRAX consists of two elements: (1) a brief overview outlining the data-collection and data-generation processes employed and (2) activated (digitally enhanced) citations. Activated citations follow the format of traditional footnotes or endnotes, but are digitally augmented to include, for each source: (a) a precise and complete reference such that scholars can locate the source and find the relevant information within it; (b) a reduction of/excerpt from the source; (c) if needed, an annotation that explains how the source supports the textual claim with which it is associated; and (d) the source itself (if available and shareable) or a hyperlink thereto. For more details, see http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/cqrm/A_Guide_to_Active_Citation/
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hyperlink to a trustworthy digital repository where the materials reside. Although not a requirement for submission, data access and production, and analytical transparency materials may make the manuscript more understandable and more compelling for reviewers.

By the time the manuscript is published in the journal, the underlying data and materials necessary to meet APSA’s data access, production transparency, and analytic transparency standards must be available in a trusted digital repository (such as a partner in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS)) or through the APSR’s online appendices (housed with Cambridge University Press), which are made accessible when the article is published.

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- It was an exploratory study or test of a novel hypothesis, but with an adequately powered, direct replication study reported in the same paper.
- It was an exploratory analysis or test of a novel hypothesis in the context of an adequately powered study, and the finding meets the statistical criteria for genome-wide significance—taking into account all sources of multiple testing (e.g., phenotypes, genotypes, environments, covariates, subgroups).
- It is a rigorously conducted, adequately powered, direct replication study of a previously reported result.

Manuscript Formatting

Manuscripts should be no longer than 12,000 words, including text, all tables and figures, notes, references, and appendices intended for publication. Font size must be 12 point for all parts of the submission, including notes and references, and all body text (including references) should be double-spaced. Include an abstract of no more than 150 words. Explanatory footnotes may be included but should not be used for simple citations; but do not use endnotes. Observe all of the further formatting instructions given on our web site. Doing so lightens the burden on reviewers, copyeditors, and compositors. Submissions that violate our guidelines on formatting or length will be rejected without review.

Please indicate variables included in statistical analyses by italicizing the entire name of the variable—the first time it is mentioned in the text—and by capitalizing its first letter in all uses. You should also use the same names for variables in text, tables, and figures. Do not use acronyms or computational abbreviations when discussing variables in the text. All variables that appear in tables or figures should have been mentioned in the text, standard summary statistics (n, mean, median, standard deviation, range, etc.) provided, and the reason for their inclusion discussed.

For submission and review purposes, you may locate tables and figures (on separate pages and only one to a page) approximately where they fall in the text, but with an in-text locator for each, in any case, e.g., [Table 3 about here].

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6 http://www.springer.com/psychology/journal/10519?detailsPage=plcti_624152
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5. Please make sure the file contains all tables, figures, appendices, and references cited in the manuscript.

Tables and Figures

Tables and figures should be comprehensible without reference to the text, e.g., in any figures, axes should be clearly labeled. Please bear in mind also that neither the published or online versions of the Review normally can provide figures in color; be sure that a grayscale version will be comprehensible to referees and readers.

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Appendices should be lettered to distinguish them from numbered tables and figures. Include a descriptive title for each appendix (e.g., “Appendix A: Data Transformation and Estimation”).

References

References should be listed in a separate section headed “REFERENCES.” All listed references must be cited in the text, and vice versa. Publication information for each reference must be complete and correct.

References should be listed in alphabetical order by authors’ last names; include first names and middle initials for all authors when available. For works with more than one author, only the name of the first author is inverted (e.g., “King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba”). List all authors; using “et al.” in the reference list is not acceptable.

When the cited material is not yet published but has been accepted for publication, use “Forthcoming” in place of the date and give the journal name or publishing house.

List two or more entries by the same author(s) in the order of the year of publication, and substitute three m-dashes for the author’s last name in the second and subsequent entries. If two or more cited works are by the same author(s) within the same year, list them in alphabetical order by title and distinguish them by adding the letters a, b, c, etc., to the year (or to “Forthcoming”).

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References for datasets should include a persistent identifier, such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Persistent identifiers ensure future access to unique published digital objects, such as a text or dataset. Persistent identifiers are assigned to datasets by digital archives, such as institutional repositories and partners in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS).

The following list is intended to be illustrative of more common reference types, not exhaustive. For additional reference guidance please see The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition.

Books


Periodicals


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**Further questions**
A list of frequently asked questions and their responses are available at the APSA website at: http://www.apsanet.org/apsr

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