

Highlights from *PS: Political Science & Politics* Editors' Report, 2015–2016

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Each year, *PS* editorial staff provides a report of activities to the APSA Publications Committee and the APSA Council. Usually we include a few items in that report to our readers here in *PS*. We provide details on submissions, demographics of authors, acceptance/rejection rates, most read articles, and other details. Finally because all articles in *PS* are blind peer-reviewed, we take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the reviewers who offered their time and service to *PS* and the profession. Their names and affiliations are listed at the end of this report.

PS is primarily supported by the American Political Science Association, but would like to acknowledge the support of the Dean's Office and Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University and the Mildred Twohy Benezet Fund and Department of Political Science at Reed College.

MISSION AND EDITORIAL STATEMENT

PS: Political Science & Politics provides critical analyses of contemporary political phenomena and is the journal of record for the discipline of political science reporting on research, teaching, and professional development. *PS*, begun in 1968, is the only quarterly professional news and commentary journal in the field and is the prime source of information on political scientists' achievements and professional concerns.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Table of Contents

The April 2016 issue (49:2) is the first to showcase the new design of the Table of Contents and a slight restructure of the journal. At the suggestion of the Ad Hoc Review Committee on the Future of *PS*, the "Features" section has been renamed. We feel the new name "Politics" better reflects the content of that section and dispels the idea that articles in the other sections are somehow not "featured."

The redesigned layout of the Table of Contents identifies the four main sections of the journal: Politics, The Profession, The Teacher, and The Association. Content is subcategorized into Articles, Symposia, Spotlights, and From the Sections. The most substantial change is the placement of symposia underneath the appropriate content heading. We have done this because symposia, which typically appeared every couple issues a decade ago, have become an important and regular element of *PS*. We thought it would help the readership to recognize that symposia could appear underneath any of our three main content categories, and it would also help readers navigate the journal. To illustrate, a forthcoming symposium on the subject of "Mainstreaming Gender in the Teaching and Learning of Politics" will now be under The Teacher section.

"From the Sections" & "Reflections"

Last year, in response to input from a number of members and organized sections, and after reviewing a number of submissions, we decided that the journal could provide a venue for content that had been originally published in one of APSA's excellent organized section newsletters. We have started to print these under the heading "From the Sections."

We also decided that we'd like to provide an opportunity for scholars to write essays on mentoring, graduate training, experiences as an administrator (analogous to essays that appear in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*), and other professional "Reflections."

Our major editorial conversation with our Board was how to solicit and peer-review these submissions. "From the Sections" contains articles that have been nominated by

section newsletter editors and are deemed of sufficient importance and interest to be disseminated to the entire discipline. The level and type of peer-review is determined in consultation with newsletter editors. "Reflections" provides authors an opportunity to submit non-anonymized essays on mentoring, research, graduate and undergraduate education, or other reflections on your experiences in the profession. We send this out for single-blind review, and often have relied on our Board members to help us respond to authors.

Symposia

As symposia have become an increasingly prominent component of *PS*, we have streamlined the submission, review, and editorial process. All symposia are now being processed through the Editorial Manager system, and all are subjected to some level of peer-review, chosen in consultation with the guest editor(s).

Guidelines for a symposium proposal can be found at <http://www.apsanet.org/pssymposium-guidelines>. We have also developed more extensive symposium guideline documents that can be quickly sent to any interested scholars.

PSNow

Recently, APSA launched a new website, <http://www.politicalsciencenow.com/> the use of which *PS* is implementing into our own workflow. The outward facing website is an excellent resource for highlighting articles in our journal. The web interface allows for comments and discussion of the articles. We look forward to continue using PSNow to reach different audiences on different platforms.

Table 1

New Submissions to *PS*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Manuscripts Received	113	130	118	101	171

SUBMISSION AND DECISION

Unsolicited manuscripts to *PS* have increased in the past year (table 1) We received more submissions in 2015 than in any of the past five years. For the first time, we are reporting the total percentage of symposia submissions, which made up 26% of total submissions (table 2). Notably, we are tracking these as symposia submissions as opposed to grouping them into the section under which they fall.

Symposia remain a central feature of *PS* (table 3). The editors receive initial proposals, including an overview of the symposium and a list of topics and authors for consideration and review. If accepted the guest editors serves as the coordinator of the review process and manuscript preparation.

We have reduced dramatically the number of submissions that are accepted after first submission (in part this number is impacted by our use of an “accept with revision” category). The rejection rate has increased as well, but we don't think this rate (66%) is out of line with *PS*'s submission rate and prominence in the profession (table 4).

AUTHOR DEMOGRAPHICS

Authors of varying ranks are published in *PS*. Most authors are full professor (34%) followed by associate professors (23%) (table 5). Since 2013, every year shows an increase in the number of female authors (table 6) with 2016 having only slightly fewer female than male authors. We will continue to strive to have a balanced representation of authors.¹

PS REVIEWERS 2015

For the past year, *PS: Political Science & Politics* published articles covering a range of topics. The professionalism and integrity of the journal's content relies on anonymous peer reviewers. The *PS* editorial team thanks the following reviewers who dedicated their time to *PS* in 2015.

A

Viviana Abreu-Hernandez, Excellencia in Education; David Adamany, Temple University; Aaron Adams, University of Washington; Brian Adams, San Diego State University; Alex Aguado, University

Table 2

PS Submissions by Category

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Features	39%	42%	41%	43%	27%
Profession	22%	13%	17%	19%	13%
Teacher	39%	45%	40%	39%	30%
Symposium	–	–	–	–	26%
Other (From the Sections, Reflections, etc.)	–	–	–	–	3%

Note: Starting in April 2016, the “Features” section is now known as the “Politics” section. Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 3

Symposia Published in PS

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Symposia Published	6	8	9	6	7
Number of Articles	41	60	68	60	55

Table 4

Editorial Outcome: First Decision

OUTCOME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Accept	30%	29.4%	34.8%	32.7%	3%
Revise and Resubmit	31%	46.1%	21.2%	19.4%	31%
Reject	39%	24.5%	43.9%	48%	66%

Table 5

Distribution of PS Authors by Rank (n=113)

ISSUE	TOTAL	FULL	ASSOCIATE	ASSISTANT	STUDENT	OTHER
July 2015	22	5	7	4	0	6
October 2015	21	4	3	5	6	3
January 2016	30	14	8	5	1	2
April 2016	40	15	8	7	7	3
Total	113	38	26	21	14	14
% of Total	–	34%	23%	19%	12%	12%

Table 6

Distribution of Authors by Gender

	FEMALE	MALE
2016 (includes January and April)	30 (43%)	40 (57%)
2015	54 (38%)	86 (61%)
2014	63 (33%)	122 (66%)
2013	48 (27%)	132 (73%)
2012	41 (31%)	92 (69%)

of North Alabama; Scott Ainsworth, University of Georgia; Susan Allen, University of Mississippi; John Altman, York College of Pennsylvania; Sarah Anderson, University of California, Santa Barbara; Theodore Arrington, University of North Carolina, Charlotte; Victor Asal, University at Albany, SUNY; Amy Atchison, Valparaiso University; James Avery, Stockton University

B

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MOST DOWNLOADED ARTICLES

The following are the top ten most cited articles published in *PS* between 2010–2014, as measured by Google Scholar.

1. Collier, David. 2011. "Understanding Process Tracing." 44 (4): 823–830.
2. Lewis-Beck, Michael, Charles Tien, and Richard Nadeau. 2010. "Obama's Missed Landslide: A Racial Cost?" 43 (1): 69–760
3. Karpowitz, Christopher F., J. Quin Monson, Kelly D. Patterson, and Jeremy C. Pope. 2011. "Tea Time in America? The Impact of the Tea Party Movement on the 2010 Midterm Elections." 44 (2): 303–309.
4. David Lazer. 2011. "Networks in Political Science: Back to the Future." 44 (1): 61–68.
5. Perliger, Arie, and Ami Pedahzur. 2011. "Social Network Analysis in the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence." 44(1): 45–50.
6. Abrams, Samuel J., and Morris P. Fiorina. 2012. "'The Big Sort' That Wasn't: A Skeptical Reexamination." 45(2): 203–210.
7. Gronke, Paul, Darius Rejali, Dustin Drenguis, James Hicks, Peter Miller, and Bryan Nakayama. 2010. "US Public Opinion on Torture, 2001–2009." 43 (3): 437–444.
8. Wedig, Timothy. 2010. "Getting the Most from Classroom Simulations: Strategies for Maximizing Learning Outcomes." 43 (3): 547–555.
9. Jones, Michael D. 2011. "Learning the Way to Compromise? Cultural Theory and Climate Change Opinion." 44 (4): 720–725.
10. Geer, John G. 2012. "The News Media and the Rise of Negativity in Presidential Campaigns." 45 (3): 422–427.

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NOTES

1. It is important to note that the Editorial Manager system does not inquire about the many statuses and identities of our submitting authors and which have become important areas of concern to track possible publication bias. We have hand coded gender as best we can, but until the Association includes a voluntary set of self-identifications in our membership system or in EM, we are hampered in our ability to track more detailed patterns in submission and acceptance rates.