Highlights from *PS: Political Science & Politics*

Phillip Ardoin, Appalachian State University, Coeditor
Paul Gronke, Reed College, Coeditor
Celina Szymanski, American Political Science Association, Managing Editor

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 |

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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 serve 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.

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.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PS Submissions by Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profession</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (From the Sections, Reflections, etc.)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3%</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symposia Published in PS</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symposia Published</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Articles</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
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Table 4

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accept</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise and Resubmit</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reject</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>66%</td>
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Table 5

<table>
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<th>Distribution of PS Authors by Rank (n=113)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISSUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
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Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution of Authors by Gender</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 (includes January and April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Laila Balcells, Duke University; Kevin Banda, University of Nevada, Reno; Jason Barabas, Florida State University; Michael Baranowski, Northern Kentucky University; Michael Barber, Brigham Young University; Barbara Bardes, University of Cincinnati; Nichole Bauer, Ball State University; Zachary Baumann, Pennsylvania State University; Jody Baumgartner, East Carolina University; Charles Bell, California State University, Fullerton; Lauren Bell, Randolph-Macon College; Jennifer Benz, NORC; John Berg, Suffolk University; Benjamin Berger, Swarthmore College; Jeffrey Bernstein, Eastern Michigan University; Jeffrey Berry, Tufts University; Sarah Birch, University of Glasgow; Amanda Blair, University of Chicago; Taylor Boas, Boston University; Keith Boeckelman, Western Illinois University; Mark Bradbury, Appalachian State University; Paul Brewer, University of Delaware; Michelle Brophy-Baerrnann, Rhode Island College; Susan Burgess, Ohio University

C

Brian Calfano, Missouri State University; David Campbell, University of Notre Dame; James Campbell, University of Buffalo; Steven Campbell, University of South Carolina, Lancaster; Mary Caputi, California State University, Long Beach; Kiki Caruson, University of South Florida; Daniel Cassino, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Gamze Cavdar, Colorado State University; Miguel Centellas, Jackson State University; Matthew Childers, University of North Florida; Mark Chou, Australian Catholic University; Maqsood Choudary, Northeast Lakeview College; Chi Chung, Harvard Law School; Chelsea Clark, Chelsea Clark Consulting, LLC; Vicki Claypool, University of Iowa; Charles Conyers, Howard University; Corey Cook, University of San Francisco; Rosalyn Cooperman, University of Mary Washington; Jonathan Cope, College of Staten Island, CUNY; Gary Copeland, University of Oklahoma; Irasema Coronado, University of Texas at El Paso; Skylar Covich, University of California, Santa Barbara; Nyron Crawford, Temple University; Michael Crespin, University of Oklahoma

D

Allan Dafoe, Yale University; Christine Day, University of New Orleans; Janet Day, SUNY Oneonta; Jonathan Day, Western Illinois University; Michael Delli Carpini, University of Pennsylvania; Eric Dickson, New York University; Michelle Dion, McMaster University; David Doherty, Loyola University Chicago; Gary Donato, Bentley University; Ian Down, University of South Carolina, Lancaster; Mary Caputi, California State University, Long Beach; Kiki Caruson, University of South Florida; Daniel Cassino, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Gamze Cavdar, Colorado State University; Miguel Centellas, Jackson State University; Matthew Childers, University of North Florida; Mark Chou, Australian Catholic University; Maqsood Choudary, Northeast Lakeview College; Chi Chung, Harvard Law School; Chelsea Clark, Chelsea Clark Consulting, LLC; Vicki Claypool, University of Iowa; Charles Conyers, Howard University; Corey Cook, University of San Francisco; Rosalyn Cooperman, University of Mary Washington; Jonathan Cope, College of Staten Island, CUNY; Gary Copeland, University of Oklahoma; Irasema Coronado, University of Texas at El Paso; Skylar Covich, University of California, Santa Barbara; Nyron Crawford, Temple University; Michael Crespin, University of Oklahoma

MOST DOWNLOADED ARTICLES

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


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U, V, W, Y, AND Z
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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.