

PS: Political Science & Politics Editors' Report

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I. INTRODUCTION

PS: Political Science & Politics is in its 56th year of publication. *PS* occupies a unique niche among the APSA portfolio of publications as an outlet for brief and non-technical articles featuring new research, political science commentary, and research on timely political and social events, research into and discussion of the political science discipline, and scholarship on teaching and pedagogy.

This is our final publication report, concluding eight years of service as editors. We want to thank our Board members, the APSA Council, the Association leadership, especially Steve Smith and Jon Gurstelle, and our publication partners at Cambridge University Press, for supporting our work.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our managing editors: Barbara Walthall was the heart and soul of *PS* for many years, Celina Szymanski joined *PS* immediately after receiving her Master's Degree at Appalachian State University and took over as managing editor after Barbara retired, and Marah Schlingensiepen, who succeeded Celina and has worked to ensure a seamless transition to the new editorial team at Wake Forest University. Their contributions have been a vital part of the journal's continued success. Over our eight year tenure, we hope we have successfully stewarded the journal during a period of rapid change in the profession and in the academy. We could not have anticipated in 2014 that by the end of our term as editors, all APSA journals including *PS* would have moved to electronic distribution. PDF readership was an issue we examined in our first survey of readership in 2015, and the approach of fully electronic distribution is something we tried to prepare for by working with Cambridge, the publications team at APSA, and our Board. We still think there are significant opportunities in electronic publishing to add visually compelling content, allow for more easily accessible ancillary and supplementary materials, and provide links and connections for readers to engage with content. We continue to advocate for coordination and communication between the editorial teams at all the APSA journals. It was our initiative that resulted in data collection on the demographics of authors and peer reviewers, which has allowed more accurate and reliable information about publication and peer review biases. We also advocate for substantially similar policies across the journals on issues such as data deposit and transparency. Standardization makes things easier for authors and reviewers, improves the ability of the Council and members of the profession to review and compare editorial performance and evaluation, and reduces the load for editorial teams.

We leave this agenda to our successors! Over the past six

months, we worked closely with the new editorial team to prepare for a smooth transition. We were excited to hear about their plans for the journal moving forward. We expect some measure of continuity combined with a new burst of energy and innovation. We remain available as a resource for the new team when they take over the journal in September 2022. *PS* is one of the primary outlets for research on the profession, and we've been proud to continue publishing important articles and symposia highlighting the challenges of broadening and diversifying our profession (and academia) and combating conscious and unconscious biases in hiring, promotion, and peer review. We feel an important sense of responsibility to provide an outlet for disciplinary debates, but this has also opened up *PS* to some controversy as debates that first appear in our pages spill out into social media. We thank our Board, the Publications Policy Committee, and the APSA leadership for helping us navigate these discussions.

As examples, we have recently published and have upcoming symposia on:

- Two symposia on Structuring Inclusion into Political Science
- The Present and Future Trajectory of Political Science and the Academy in Central Europe
- Forecasting the September 2021 German National Election
- Forecasting the 2022 French Presidential Election
- Two Spotlights in From the Sections, one examining scholars working at the nexus of legislative studies and race and ethnic politics, and a second explores research on racial and ethnic politics as it applies to legislative studies.
- The Enduring Quest for Equity in Political Science
- Political science is somewhat unique among academic disciplines because we cannot turn away from a turbulent political world, and some of this turbulence will inevitably spill onto our pages.

We urge anyone who has comments, suggestions, and criticisms to forward these to the editorial team at ps@apsanet.org.

DIVERSITY EFFORTS

PS supports the diversity efforts of APSA and our discipline, and we are proud that we continue to attract a diverse author pool. We continue to make headway in attracting more submissions from international scholars and featuring articles that address the concerns of contingent scholars. We are particularly proud of a recently published symposium led by Dr. Tatyana

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Author Submission (N= 269)

Gender	Percent	Gender	Percent
Female	46.5%	Prefer not to answer	5.8%
Male	45.0%	Non-binary	1.9%
Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Race/Ethnicity	Percent
European/Anglo White	61.3%	Other	1.8%
Asian or Asian American	11.0%	Middle Eastern or Arab American	1.5%
Latino/a	8.8%	Non-European/Non-Anglo White	2.0%
Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American	0.2%	Native American/First Nations/Indigenous Peoples	0.3%
Prefer not to answer	8.7%		
Home Institution	Percent	Home Institution	Percent
University with PhD in Political Science	61.3%	Other	1.7%
University w/out PhD in Political Science	21.1%	Community or Two-Year College	1.3%
Four-Year College	8.0%	Government	1.5%
Non-Profit Sector	2.7%	Private Sector	0.7%
Prefer not to answer	2.4%		
Primary Position	Percent	Primary Position	Percent
Full Professor	20.4%	Independent Scholar	0.7%
Associate Professor (with tenure)	15.9%	Retired	1.8%
Assistant Professor	25.2%	Other	2.8%
Graduate Student	11.9%	Prefer not to answer	2.4%
Full Time Non-Tenure-Track Faculty	2.6%	Academic Administration	1.8%
Post-Doctoral Fellow	4.7%	Government	0.7%
Research Scientist or Non-Profit Organization	1.8%	Adjunct Faculty	0.7%
Undergraduate Student	5.0%		
Country	Percent	Country	Percent
United States	67.6%	Netherlands	0.4%
United Kingdom	4.8%	Japan	0.4%
Canada	4.4%	Australia	0.4%
Germany	3.7%	Austria	0.4%
Poland	2.2%	Singapore	0.4%
Denmark	1.1%	Sweden	0.4%
Hungary	1.1%	Ukraine	0.4%
France	1.5%	Switzerland	0.4%
Israel	1.5%	Turkey	0.4%
Hong Kong	0.7%	Brazil	0.4%
Russia	0.7%	Japan	0.4%
Thailand	0.7%	India	0.4%
Egypt	0.7%	Italy	0.4%
Belgium	0.7%	Kazakhstan	0.4%
Czech Republic	0.7%	Korea	0.4%
South Africa	0.4%	Qatar	0.4%
Switzerland	0.4%	Pakistan	0.4%
Kuwait	0.4%		

Ruseva and Dr. Joanna Skrzypczyńska, *The Present and Future Trajectory of Political Science and the Academy in Central Europe*. We also continue to publish research from a substantial number of young scholars who are working outside of academia and are currently not in a tenure track position. This past year 38.5% of our contributors are not serving in tenure track positions. Finally, we are proud to note the percent of authors in *PS* representing minority race/ethnicity communities. This past year 38.7% of our authors identify as a race or ethnicity other than European/Anglo White. More can and will be done.

II. EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A. OVERVIEW

As shown in table 1, submission rates to *PS* have grown by 75-100% since we took over as editors in fall of 2014. We appear to have leveled out to 175-200 submissions annually. We are concerned there may be a slight drop in submissions this year due to COVID-19, but at the time of this writing, we appear to be on pace for 200-250 this year. With the transition to online courses and cancellation of several academic conferences in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19, the submission and peer review acceptance rates for *PS* significantly declined. Submission and reviewer acceptance rates have generally returned to the pre-COVID-19 rates, but we will continue to monitor these closely as the Fall semester opens.

Table 2: New Submissions to *PS* through Editorial Manager

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New Submissions Received	256	174	207	225	218	277	130 (as of 8/14)

B. PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR:

This past year we published a variety of interesting and engaging articles. Below are listed a few of the more notable articles published this year in the pages of *PS* which provide a snapshot of the timeliness and diversity of issues addressed in the pages of *PS*.

Politics Section

- Weyland, K. (2022). Why US Democracy Trumps Populism: Comparative Lessons Reconsidered. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 478-483.
- Viskupič, F., & Wiltse, D. (2022). The Messenger Matters: Religious Leaders and
- Overcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 504-509.
- Hale, H. (2022). A "Terrific Symbol": Physical Personalization of Pandemic Relief Enhances Presidential Support. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 251-256.
- Cervas, J., & Grofman, B. (2022). Why Donald Trump Should Be a Fervent Advocate of Using Ranked-Choice Voting in 2024. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(1), 1-6.
- Pothoff, R. (2022). Clashes Involving National Popular Vote, Hare ("RCV"), Maine, Alaska. *PS: Political*

Science & Politics, 55(1), 22-27.

Profession Section

- Crabtree, C. (2022). Symposium: Building Community and Improving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Political Science Through Virtual Workshops. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3).
- Kim, S., Lebovits, H., & Shugars, S. (2022). Networking 101 for Graduate Students: Building a Bigger Table. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 307-312.
- Barham, E., & Wood, C. (2022). Teaching the Hidden Curriculum in Political Science. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 324-328.
- Jackson, J., Juárez Pérez, M., Scott, J., & Wong, D. (2022). Introduction to A Dialogue on the Status of Junior Women of Color in the Discipline. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 361-363.
- Franceschet, A., Lucas, J., O'Neill, B., Pando, E., & Thomas, M. (2022). Editor Fatigue: Can Political Science Journals Increase Review Invitation-Acceptance Rates? *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(1), 117-122.
- Grossman, J. (2022). Cite the Good Cite: Making Citations in Political Science More Transparent. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(1), 129-134.

Teacher Section

- Bianco, W., & Canon, D. (2022). Symposium: Lessons Learned from Political Science Textbook Authors. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 623-623.
- Nonnemacher, J., & Sokhey, S. (2022). Learning by Doing: Using an Undergraduate Research Lab to Promote Diversity and Inclusion. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 413-418.
- Ayoub, P. (2022). Reverse Research Design: Research Design in the Undergraduate Classroom. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(2), 424-428.
- Bayer, R., Turper, S., & Woods, J. (2022). Teamwork within a Senior Capstone Course: Implementation and Assessment. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 1-6.
- Siena, S., & Roman, T. (2022). Fighting Fake News: Using Peer Discussion Groups to Build News Media Literacy. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 1-7.

III. STAFFING AND EDITORIAL BOARD

The *PS: Political Science & Politics* staff consists of a portion of two editors' time and a full-time managing editor as well as a part-time editorial associate. Co-editor Phillip Ardoin is based at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina and co-editor Paul Gronke is based at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Marah Schlingensiepen took over as Managing Editor in January. She earned her PhD in political science from the University of Florida in 2021 and has extensive experience working as an editorial assistant for *Perspectives on Politics* and serving as Interim Managing Editor for *PS* in 2021. Madelyn Dewey is Associate Editor of *Political Science Today* and serves as a liaison between official APSA news and events and the journal. *PS* is further supported by part-time student assistants at Appalachian State and Reed College. Our current editorial board includes 23 scholars who represent a diverse set of universities and colleges, research interests, methodologies, and perspectives of the APSA membership.

ASSOCIATION

We would like to thank the members of our editorial board for their dedication and service to the journal and the profession.

New Board Members (pending approval at Council meeting September 2022):

Candis Watts Smith, Duke University
 Austin Strange, University of Hong Kong
 Zaynab El Bernoussi, International University of Rabat
 Michelle Taylor-Robinson, Texas A&M University
 Lena Wängnerud, University of Gothenburg
 Arthur Spirling, New York University
 Rebecca Reid, University of Texas at El Paso
 Kristina Mitchell, San Jose State University
 Cristobal Rovira Kaltwasser, Universidad Diego Portales (Santiago de Chile)
 Jane Sumner, University of Minnesota
 Julieta Suarez Cao, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Oumar Ba, Cornell University
 Nazita Lajevardi, Michigan State University
 Andrew Szarejko, Wartburg University
 Zachariah Mamphilly, City University of New York
 Jennifer Cyr, Universidad Torcuato di Tella
 Adam Levine, Johns Hopkins University
 Rebecca Glazier, University of Arkansas, Little Rock
 Bernard Fraga, Emory University
 Andrea Benjamin, University of Oklahoma
 Kelly Bauer, Nebraska Wesleyan University
 Amy Niang, The Africa Institute
 Murad Idris, University of Michigan
 Chris Sabatini, Chatham House
 Continuing Term:
 Charity Butcher, Kennesaw State University
 Jonathan DiCicco, Middle Tennessee State University
 Lisa Sanchez, University of Arizona
 Eric Loepp, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
 Matthew Moore, California Polytechnic State University

We wish to thank the following editorial board members, whose term of service ends at the 2021 APSA Annual Meeting, for their service, time, and dedication to PS.

Justin Esarey, Wake Forest University
 Kevin Esterling, University of California, Riverside
 (Brett) Ashley Leeds, Rice University
 Yalidy Matos, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
 Barbara Norrander, University of Arizona
 Joseph Roberts, Roger Williams University
 Dawn Teele, University of Pennsylvania
 Renee Van Vechten, University of Redlands
 James Druckman, Northwestern University
 Robin Harding, University of Oxford
 Natalie Jackson, Director of Research at PRRI
 Ellen Key, Appalachian State University
 Sarah Khan, Yale University
 Thomas Leeper, Facebook Core Data Science
 Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, George Mason University
 Brian Smentkowski, University of Idaho
 Yael Zeira, Syracuse University

IV. PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY

PS has a good working relationship with our publisher, Cam-

bridge University Press. Brian Mazeski replaced Katrina Swartz as our production manager at Cambridge University Press and continues to provide excellent service. The production of The Association section of PS (People, Association News, Gazette, Business sections) is completed in-house by APSA staff, (Madelyn Dewey), publishing associates. The Association section requires more layout and design features than the front, which consists only of peer-reviewed content.

Table 3: Turnaround Time from Submission to Review (Days)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Time to 1st Decision	96	108	114	83	73.1	55.1
Reviewer Turnaround	20	20	25	26	25.3	21.3

Table 4: Turnaround Time from Acceptance to Publication (Days)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
Acceptance to online publication	95	45	53	76	116	113

**The 2021/2022 averages include all content, i.e., content that may have been embargoed for a later date, on hold waiting for missing files, or waiting for OA transactions to clear (meaning the average is likely increased due to occasional articles that take longer than others to finalize). Additionally, because contract completion occurs after acceptance, delays due to authors not completing their contract are likely also a factor.

V. SUBMISSIONS BY ARTICLE TYPE

In 2021, PS published 118 articles, 77 symposia, 38 spotlights, 21 From the Sections, and 2 special reports. In 2022 to date, PS has published 93 articles, 26 symposia, 1 spotlight, and 1 special report. The acceptance rate of 63.7% for 2021 was in line with our traditional rates. While the rate of acceptance is high in comparison to other APSA journals, this is partially the consequence of a significantly high acceptance rate of symposia. While all symposia submissions do undergo a double blind peer review, the review of symposium proposals filter out most manuscripts which might be ultimately rejected.

Table 5: Final Disposition on Submissions, by date of final decision

Volume Year	Accept	Reject
2021	63.7%	22.9%
2020	66.9%	33.1%
2019	72.4%	27.6%
2018	64.6%	35.4%
2017	63.5%	36.5%
2016	53.1%	46.8%
2015	33.3%	66.6%

VI. PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

PS joined the Twitterverse in January 2018. We now have over

6,000 followers, up almost 1,500 followers from last year, and we continue to build our follower base. Our handle is @ps_polisci. A typical Tweet involves an image with the newly published article’s title and author names, a featured quote from the article, and a link to the FirstView publication. We try to tag (@) authors to increase exposure and encourage authors to retweet the links. The managing editor runs the *PS-Twitter*, in consultation with the APSA editorial associate. The APSA-run Political Science Now blog (www.politicalsciencenow.com) continues to feature *PS* content, especially symposia, spotlights, and research about the profession. *PS* articles have been featured in news media and other publications including *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Washington Post’s* “Monkey Cage,” and National Public Radio, among others. ■

Table 6: Symposia and Spotlights Published in *PS*

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Symposia & Spotlights Published	9	6	7	10	17	10	9	9	13
Number of Symposia & Spotlight Contributions	68	60	55	68	120	65	73	75	214

Table 7: Top-10 List of Altmetric Attention Scores for Articles Published in 2021

Rank	Altmetric Attention	Score Title	Publication Date
1	184	Supporting Junior Women: Strategies for Men Colleagues	4/29/2021
2	95	Liberal Bias in the College Classroom: A Review of the Evidence (or Lack Thereof)	6/24/2021
3	58	Journal Desk-Rejection Practices in Political Science: Bringing Data to Bear on What Journals Do	7/6/2021
4	46	Collaboration for Designing, Conceptualizing, and (Possibly) Decolonizing Research in African Politics	4/19/2021
5	37	Desk Rejecting: A Better Use of Your Time	7/6/2021
6	33	Political Science Scholarship on the Middle East: A View from the Journals	2/23/2021
7	33	COVID-19 and Fieldwork: Challenges and Solutions	1/19/2021
8	32	Politically Invisible in America	6/28/2021
9	31	Pay to Play? How Reducing APSA Division Fees Increases Graduate Student Participation	5/14/2021
10	31	Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Academic Conferences by Online Participation: The Case of the 2020 Virtual European Consortium for Political Research General Conference	2/22/2021

Table 8: Total Altmetric Mentions 2018-2020

Year	Total Mentions	News Mentions	Blog Mentions	Twitter Mentions	Facebook Mentions
2018	7,145	94	177	6,786	31
2019	6,953	133	148	6,537	11
2020	7,295	233	236	6,645	5