

# Comparative journal rankings: a survey report

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## **Abstract**

The expert-survey and bibliometric methods of assessing the quality of work in political science are complementary. This project builds on previous surveys of academic political science journals conducted among US political scientists. The current wave extends the survey to political scientists in Canada and the UK. Preliminary results suggest both similarities and differences across the three countries. The full results of the project will be important for policy debate in any country that is considering channelling flows of funds to universities in proportion to the quality of their research; and in helping to supply objective evidence about the research quality of work submitted by candidates for academic appointments and promotions.

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# Comparative journal rankings: a survey report

## *The reputational method*

Academic appointing and promotion committees; policy makers; and grant awarding bodies all have good reasons to wish to assess the quality of research in any academic subject such as political science. In numerous countries including the UK, public funding to university departments is in part (intended to be) a positive monotonic function of their research quality. Both public- and private-sector grant-making bodies need to know, before making grants, that the recipients are capable of producing good quality work; and, at the end of the award, that they have done so.

There are good policy and regulatory reasons for doing so. In natural science, there are unquestionably network benefits to be had by concentrating high-quality research in centres of excellence; and the infrastructure costs (libraries, laboratories, research support teams....) are spent more effectively if concentrated. In humanities, the infrastructure argument applies in full force, and the network benefit argument applies mostly to interactions in research seminars and the like. Social sciences, including political science, are intermediate between the natural sciences and the humanities in this (as in most other things). Grant-making bodies are spending either public or charitable money and in either case need to assure themselves that they are getting good value for money. For instance, the UK Charity Commission has now built research quality into its very definition of “public benefit”, which is the test that all non-profits must meet if they are to retain the tax and reputational advantages of charitable status. In its current guidance notes it states

[T]here is undoubtedly an overall benefit to society from having charities that undertake cancer research. But that general benefit cannot necessarily be claimed by every organisation undertaking that sort of research. What matters is what research the particular organisation is doing, how it does it and what it does with the results. A cancer research charity that undertakes properly conducted research ... and that publishes the useful results of that research from which others can learn, will provide significant benefits to the public. But ... that benefit would count for very little in assessing the public benefit of an organisation conducting cancer research if the methods it used were not scientifically rigorous for example (Charity Commission 2008 p. 13)

People, projects, and publications are inextricably connected in any such assessment. People work on projects, some of them grant-funded, and others funded out of their university's general resources. They publish the results in books and journals. Some books and journals are better than others. Good journals employ a double-blind peer reviewing system and insist on various statistical and replicability requirements. Good academic publishers have manuscripts peer reviewed.

It is also true, but not the same thing, that some journals and academic publishers have better *reputations* than others. The reputation of a publisher or a journal is a (possibly noisy) signal of its true quality. But once the reputation has been acquired,

participants have incentives to shirk. They may get into citation rings in which they cite one another preferentially; they may promote papers from a certain university, or a certain region, or with a certain ideology.

How then can appointing committees, research assessment bodies, and grant-makers minimise the noise-to-signal ratio – and get as close as possible to evaluating the true but unknown quality of a person, a project, or a publication? No one method is perfect but a combination of methods is likely to be better than one method on its own. Informal methods are probably still widely used, but they have obvious dangers. In practice, the two candidate methods are therefore *bibliometric* and *expert survey*. Both are reputational methods, the first indirectly and the second directly.

In the bibliometric approach, publications are evaluated by the quality of the journal in which they appear. That quality is in turn evaluated by the number of citations it receives. The widely-used ISI *Web of Science* database generates statistics to rank journals and people. Journals may be ranked, for example, by average citations per paper, and by their half-life (a measure of the lasting authority of a paper). Authors may be ranked, for example, by the number of citations they receive, by the impact of their papers, or just by the number of papers they publish. A tool such as Google Scholar can yield similar data although it is not set up to generate such statistics automatically.

There are well-known criticisms of this approach. A paper may be cited frequently, it is said, because it is so bad that people frequently wish to rebut it<sup>1</sup>; or (more plausibly) because it is a methods paper that is cited in the routine set-up of many papers reporting substantive results. The role of gatekeeper is crucial. The criteria used by ISI for admitting new journals to its citation sets, and (if they exist) for expelling existing journals, are not transparent as far as we know. The impact factor of a journal is a ratio, which therefore depends on the validity of both numerator and denominator. The denominator is affected by the sometimes arbitrary classification of papers into main articles and front-matter. (For a fierce criticism of ISI's non-transparency see a recent editorial in *Journal of Cell Biology*, Rossner, Van Epps, and Hill 2007). The coverage of books is patchy. *Web of Science* can pick up citations *to* monographs, proceedings, journals outside its set, and other forms of academic dissemination, but not citations *in* those forms. This makes its results difficult to interpret across subjects and perhaps even across subfields within a subject, when patterns of publication across subjects or across subfields differ. Data for authors are noisy because authors have similar names, may give their names differently in different publications, may change names, or may be cited incorrectly. Authors with common surnames generate particularly noisy data.

The expert survey can counter some (but not all) of these sources of bias and noise. Of course, the surveyor must be assured that those surveyed really are experts. The first (1950s) wave of reputational studies, notably of power in local communities, could be faulted in this respect. They tended to report that well-known local position-holders were powerful, but this conclusion could be tautological and circular. Since those days, the expert survey has been refined. In a parallel literature to that in which this paper is located, the expert survey of party manifestoes has been shown to be at

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<sup>1</sup> But why, in a mature science, should it be necessary to refute a bad paper more than once?

least equally valid and reliable a measure of spatial locations of parties as the manual coding of their manifestoes (Laver 1998; Budge 2001). The present study, like its predecessors, is based on populations, not samples. The population in question is that of teachers of political science in Ph.D-awarding universities in the countries studied. The expert survey may mitigate the problem of exogenous selection of “good” journals by inviting respondents to write-in other journals, as we have done.

## **Methods**

The present expert survey is the fifth in a series initiated in 1975 with the most recent instalment published in 2003 by the two US authors of this paper (Giles and Wright, 1975; Giles, Mizell, and Patterson, 1989; Garand, 1990; Garand and Giles, 2003). In these works Giles and Garand conducted surveys of political scientists in the U.S., with respondents asked to evaluate the quality of journals on a scale ranging from 0 (poor quality) to 10 (outstanding). Garand (1990) and Garand and Giles (2003) combined data on mean journal evaluations and the proportion of respondents who were familiar with each journal to create a measure of journal “impact.” The authors reasoned that the most important journals in political science are those that are both (1) highly regarded for the quality of the work that they publish and (2) highly visible to the broadest group of political scientists. By combining quality and familiarity measures into a single scale, Garand and Giles created an impact measure that has a high level of face validity and that is highly correlated ( $r = 0.656$ ) with citation-based measures of journal impact.

For the UK, the population of interest is the list in the latest available edition of the annual Political Studies Association *Directory* (PSA 2007). From data supplied by heads of departments, this lists all academic staff in political science and cognate departments in the UK, whether or not they are PSA members. It also lists PSA (and British International Studies Association) members in institutions outside the political science departments.

This appears to be a high quality list. It probably overstates the true population of political scientists in UK universities, because some member departments cover more than one social science (e.g., “Department of Economics and Public Policy”; “Politics and Contemporary History Subject Group”). This will account for some false positives on the list. False negatives are minimised (but surely not eliminated) by the reporting of political scientists outside political science departments.

There are approximately 1800 names on the list. By comparison, about 1000 people were entered by their universities as research-active political scientists in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The true unobservable population probably lies in between those numbers.

The invitation to participate in our survey went out to everybody on the list, accompanied by a letter of support from the Chair of the PSA (for which we are exceedingly grateful). The response received, after a reminder, was 432. If the ‘true’ denominator is the 1800 names on the listing, this is a UK response rate of 24.00%. If the ‘true’ denominator is the set of RAE submissions, the response rate is 43.20%. The mean of the two is 33.60%. This is regarded as good for an expert survey without

material incentives to participants. The demographics of respondents appear to be in line with those of the profession as a whole (Table A1). The most obvious deviation, namely that respondents were more likely to hold doctorates than the profession as a whole, is good news for the ‘expertise’ of the expert survey results.

For the Canadian case, we compiled a list of all Ph.D. granting departments in Canada. We consulted their websites for a list of faculty members contacted all of them to see whether the list needed to be updated. We had to proceed that way because many political scientists in Canada are not members of the Canadian Political Science Association.

For the US survey, the population of interest is political scientists who are employed by Ph.D.-granting institutions and who are members of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the national association of political scientists in the US. We obtained membership data for faculty from Ph.D. institutions from the Executive Director of the APSA, and this left us with a total of 3,486 political scientists to receive our survey. The final number of usable responses is 1134, for a response rate of 32.53%.

The survey sent to all respondents was administered by the Public Policy Research Laboratory, an academic survey research centre located at Louisiana State University. Respondents from the US, UK, and Canada were sent emails with a link to the survey, which was tailored to the language and academic customs of each country. After an initial period of receiving responses from our sample, a second reminder email was sent to all respondents. Originally our intention was to send reminder surveys only to nonrespondents from the first round of emails, but information with which we could identify respondents was inadvertently excluded from the original emails. Hence we sent the second round of emails to all of our original subjects. We asked respondents who had not completed the original survey to respond, but we also asked those who had responded originally not to respond and to discard the email. Some individuals responded to both sets of emails, so we examined the data closely to identify duplicate responses. Our analyses are based on the first completed survey received from each respondent.

The survey sent to all respondents is divided into three sections. First, all respondents received in the email solicitation a cover letter that included a brief description of the project, a confidentiality statement, and a statement relating to human subjects review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Louisiana State University. Second, we included a series of questions designed to measure descriptive information, including country of origin, highest degree received, age, sex, academic rank, field and subfield interests, and methodological approaches. Third, we included a section with open-ended questions in which respondents could identify journals (1) to which respondents would submit “a very strong paper on a topic in your area of expertise,” and (2) that respondents “read regularly or otherwise rely on for the best research in your area of expertise.” Finally, we included a section in which we asked respondents to evaluate “journals in terms of the general quality of the articles it publishes.” We used a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (outstanding) and asked respondents to evaluate each of 92 journals with which they might be familiar. We also asked respondents to indicate if they were familiar with each of these journals, as well as whether or not they have ever published an article in each journal.

The selection of journals for the survey required a balance between including sufficient journals to achieve adequate coverage across subfields and countries of origin and not including so many journals as to burden survey respondents and reduce the response rate below acceptable levels. We approached this task in four steps. First, we included all of the journals in the Garand and Giles (2003) survey that were also classified as political science, public administration or international studies by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Second, given the emphasis of the Garand and Giles list on American journals we included all of the journals included in Hix's (2004) bibliometric study. This resulted in the inclusion of 84 journals: 45 journals that were in the appropriate ISI categories and included in the studies of both Garand and Giles, and Hix; 19 journals that were only included in the Hix study, and 20 journals that were not included in the Hix study but were in the appropriate ISI category and included in the Garand and Giles study. Third, we included all journals that were familiar to at least 20% of the respondents to the Garand and Giles study regardless of their ISI categorization. This step added only four journals to the list.<sup>2</sup> Finally, each of the authors was allowed to nominate journals for inclusion but agreement of three of the four authors was required for a nominated journal to be added to the list. Only three journals were added to the list through this procedure.<sup>3</sup>

Any list of 92 political science journals excludes quite a few journals that political scientists will read or to which they will submit their work, so respondents to the survey also were given the opportunity to add and rate journals not included in the 92 selected journals. A number of responses were given, but in no case did any unlisted journal receive more than 35 references and ratings. These additional journals will be included in subsequent studies, but in this report we focus our results on responses to the close-ended evaluation items.

## **Results**

Respondents were asked to rank (only) journals with which they were familiar. From this information we created the indices and ranks orders for the three sampled countries shown in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

[Tables 1-3 here]

The descriptive statistics in each of these tables are calculated as follows. The column headed 'Mean rating' is the mean of ratings given by those who indicated that they were familiar with the journal, on a scale from 0 to 10. 'Proportion familiar' is self-explanatory. The 'Impact' score is calculated by the formula  $Impact = (mean\ rating) + (familiarity * mean\ rating)$  and is correlated comparably to journal rating and to journal familiarity scores (see Garand 1990). Finally, impact score are indexed as a proportion of the impact score of the top journal (*American Political Science Review* for the US and Canadian samples; *British Journal of Political Science* for the UK sample, with *APSR* just behind).

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<sup>2</sup> *Law and Society Review*, *Presidential Studies*, *Review of Politics* and *Social Science Quarterly*. We did not include in this step journals familiar to 20% or more in the Garand and Giles study but central to another discipline, i.e. *American Economic Review*, *American Sociological Review* and *American Journal of Sociology*.

<sup>3</sup> *Political Analysis*, *Canadian Public Administration* and *Canadian Public Policy*.

How much cross-national consensus is there on the rankings of journals? Figs 1 to 3 show the pairwise comparison for each of the pairs of countries.

[Figs 1 to 3 here]

Figs 1 to 3 show quite high correlations between pairs of countries. The closest pair was Canada/UK ( $r^2 = 0.603$ ), followed by Canada/USA ( $r^2 = 0.553$ ), and UK/USA ( $r^2 = 0.322$ ). Outliers are indexed by the journal name in each of these figures. This allows us to inspect the likely causes of national differences. We hypothesized that much of any disparity would be attributable to differential ranking of journals originating from the three countries studied. This is borne out by a study of the outliers. In Fig. 1, the top six upward outliers (higher impact in UK than USA) are all edited out of the UK. In Fig. 2, the top 3 upward outliers (higher impact in Canada than the USA) are all published in Canada.

What about the downward outliers – journals that have a higher impact in the USA than in the other countries? As a high proportion of our journals are edited from the USA, the ‘national origin’ hypothesis may be expected to have less leverage. We expected cross-national differences in approach to the discipline to have more effect. This may be borne out by subsequent multivariate analysis. However, inspection of the downward outliers in Figs 1-3 reveals that national perspectives are again at work. For example, of the four biggest downward outliers in Fig. 1, one is Canadian (implying that Canada is (even) less visible to UK than to US-based political scientists); one is one of the house journals of the American Political Science Association; and the remaining two are largely or wholly US by subject coverage.

## ***Discussion***

Compared to ISI-generated bibliometrics, our tables are less noisy and (probably) more securely based in expert judgements. The high degree of expert consensus, especially at the top of the list, across the three countries is encouraging. For instance, 7 of the US and UK top ten are common to the two lists. Much has been made of different national styles in political science. Our evidence, on this initial look at the data, does not seem to bear this out. More detailed analysis by sub-field, style (e.g., qualitative/quantitative) and geographical coverage of journals may show up some subtler differences. Our headline message, however, is that expert judgments of journal rankings are robust and may be used confidently by those tasked with grading people, publications, or university departments.

Table 1. U.S. political scientists' impact, evaluation, and familiarity ratings of 92 political science journals, 2007

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
1. American Political Science Review	7.979	0.983	15.820	1.000
2. American Journal of Political Science	7.607	0.940	14.753	0.933
3. Journal of Politics	7.533	0.913	14.410	0.911
4. British Journal of Political Science	7.144	0.815	12.965	0.820
5. International Organization	7.500	0.697	12.725	0.804
6. World Politics	7.165	0.693	12.131	0.767
7. Comparative Political Studies	6.953	0.650	11.472	0.725
8. Comparative Politics	6.668	0.694	11.295	0.714
9. Perspectives on Politics	5.951	0.825	10.860	0.686
10. Journal of Conflict Resolution	6.563	0.617	10.612	0.671
11. International Studies Quarterly	6.766	0.567	10.604	0.670
12. Legislative Studies Quarterly	6.42	0.621	10.410	0.656
13. Political Research Quarterly	6.067	0.702	10.326	0.653
14. Political Analysis	6.858	0.492	10.234	0.647
15. Public Opinion quarterly	6.266	0.516	9.530	0.602
16. Political Theory	7.064	0.327	9.402	0.594
17. PS: Political Science and Politics	4.978	0.876	9.340	0.590
18. Foreign Affairs	5.293	0.742	9.222	0.583
19. American Politics Research	5.672	0.609	9.124	0.577
20. Political Behavior	6.127	0.461	8.952	0.566
21. Journal of Theoretical Politics	6.091	0.441	8.777	0.555
22. Electoral Studies	5.796	0.504	8.718	0.551
23. International Security	6.126	0.416	8.675	0.548
24. Public Choice	5.633	0.519	8.555	0.541
25. Social Science Quarterly	5.363	0.594	8.548	0.540
26. Journal of Law and Economics	6.277	0.360	8.539	0.540
27. Political Science Quarterly	5.241	0.611	8.446	0.534
28. Public Administration Review	6.295	0.338	8.425	0.533
29. Politics and Society	6.048	0.364	8.370	0.529
30. Political Psychology	6.007	0.363	8.309	0.525
31. Polity	5.363	0.543	8.273	0.523
32. Studies in American Political Development	6.344	0.303	8.269	0.523
33. Philosophy and Public Affairs	6.826	0.205	8.227	0.520
34. Law and Society Review	6.063	0.348	8.175	0.517
35. Journal of Democracy	5.534	0.470	8.136	0.514
36. European Journal of Political Research	6.019	0.336	8.044	0.506
37. Journal of Peace Research	5.757	0.362	7.841	0.496
38. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	6.403	0.218	7.800	0.493
39. Canadian Journal of Political Science	5.558	0.361	7.677	0.485
40. Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science	5.028	0.516	7.623	0.482

Table 1 (continued)

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
41. History of Political Thought	6.506	0.154	7.506	0.475
42. Publius	5.158	0.436	7.408	0.468
43. Studies in Comparative and International Development	5.932	0.216	7.215	0.456
44. Party Politics	5.42	0.323	7.183	0.454
45. Political Communication	5.587	0.280	7.149	0.452
46. European Journal of International Relations	5.707	0.237	7.061	0.446
47. Review of Politics	5.45	0.293	7.049	0.446
48. International Political Science Review	4.939	0.404	6.935	0.438
49. Political Studies	5.473	0.258	6.883	0.435
50. Governance	4.92	0.365	6.714	0.424
51. Journal of Public Policy	5.454	0.220	6.654	0.421
52. Review of International Political Economy	5.559	0.193	6.634	0.419
53. Political Geography	5.455	0.214	6.620	0.418
54. Review of International Studies	5.482	0.202	6.587	0.416
55. Policy Studies Journal	4.989	0.319	6.580	0.416
56. West European Politics	5.392	0.217	6.564	0.415
57. Conflict Management and Peace Science	5.135	0.258	6.458	0.408
58. Journal of Common Market Studies	5.404	0.191	6.434	0.407
59. Latin American Politics and Society	5.456	0.179	6.432	0.407
60. Women and Politics	4.954	0.297	6.425	0.406
61. Government and Opposition	4.987	0.287	6.418	0.406
62. Security Studies	5.134	0.246	6.396	0.404
63. Millennium--Journal of International Studies	5.147	0.230	6.332	0.400
64. Administration and Society	5.335	0.186	6.328	0.400
65. Presidential Studies Quarterly	4.237	0.484	6.287	0.397
66. American Journal of International Law	5.507	0.139	6.274	0.397
67. Journal of European Public Policy	5.592	0.119	6.259	0.396
68. International Affairs	4.93	0.262	6.222	0.393
69. European Union Politics	5.358	0.161	6.222	0.393
70. Democratization	4.943	0.256	6.207	0.392
71. American Review of Public Administration	5.059	0.216	6.154	0.389
72. International Interactions	4.689	0.291	6.055	0.383
73. Journal of Legislative Studies	4.796	0.256	6.022	0.381
74. Public Interest	4.82	0.245	6.000	0.379
75. Scandinavian Political Studies	5.321	0.120	5.959	0.377
76. Politische Vierteljahresschrift	5.566	0.070	5.954	0.376
77. Journal of Strategic Studies	5.134	0.130	5.802	0.367
78. Revue Française de Science Politique	5.252	0.102	5.787	0.366
79. Policy Sciences	5.006	0.155	5.781	0.365
80. Political Science	4.464	0.294	5.778	0.365

Table 1 (continued)

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
81. Public Administration	4.956	0.165	5.773	0.365
82. East European Politics and Societies	4.805	0.159	5.571	0.352
83. Nations and Nationalism	4.957	0.105	5.479	0.346
84. Australian Journal of Political Science	4.619	0.173	5.419	0.343
85. Political Quarterly	4.486	0.192	5.349	0.338
86. Europe-Asia Studies (Soviet Studies)	4.763	0.108	5.278	0.334
87. Post-Soviet Affairs	4.661	0.106	5.179	0.327
88. Cooperation and Conflict	4.49	0.144	5.137	0.325
89. Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica	4.855	0.057	5.131	0.324
90. Acta Politica	4.653	0.090	5.071	0.321
91. Canadian Public Administration	4.123	0.067	4.399	0.278
92. Canadian Public Policy	4.017	0.054	4.234	0.268

Note: The rating for each journal is based on respondents' placement of each journal on a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (outstanding). Familiarity is the proportion of respondents who are familiar with a given journal. Impact is measured to weight mean evaluations and familiarity and is calculated using the following formula: (mean rating) \* (familiarity \* mean rating).

Table 2. U.K. political scientists' impact, evaluation, and familiarity ratings of 92 political science journals, 2007

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
1. British Journal of Political Science	7.116	0.836	13.067	1.000
2. American Political Science Review	7.047	0.810	12.755	0.976
3. Political Studies	6.852	0.789	12.256	0.938
4. International Organization	7.486	0.601	11.985	0.917
5. American Journal of Political Science	6.911	0.722	11.902	0.911
6. Comparative Politics	6.730	0.667	11.221	0.859
7. European Journal of Political Research	6.738	0.653	11.140	0.853
8. World Politics	7.090	0.556	11.030	0.844
9. Comparative Political Studies	6.741	0.606	10.824	0.828
10. West European Politics	6.565	0.563	10.261	0.785
11. European Journal of International Relations	6.787	0.501	10.188	0.780
12. Review of International Studies	6.828	0.485	10.137	0.776
13. Journal of Common Market Studies	6.677	0.515	10.119	0.774
14. Journal of Politics	6.587	0.534	10.107	0.773
15. Government and Opposition	5.831	0.732	10.097	0.773
16. International Affairs	6.365	0.572	10.009	0.766
17. Journal of European Public Policy	6.822	0.428	9.739	0.745
18. International Studies Quarterly	6.688	0.456	9.737	0.745
19. Party Politics	6.672	0.456	9.715	0.743
20. Electoral Studies	6.622	0.447	9.580	0.733
21. Philosophy and Public Affairs	7.536	0.261	9.505	0.727
22. Foreign Affairs	5.717	0.663	9.505	0.727
23. Millennium--Journal of International Studies	5.892	0.594	9.391	0.719
24. Political Theory	7.021	0.335	9.373	0.717
25. Public Administration	6.660	0.385	9.223	0.706
26. International Security	6.750	0.361	9.187	0.703
27. History of Political Thought	6.992	0.295	9.051	0.693
28. Governance	6.109	0.477	9.026	0.691
29. Democratization	6.035	0.477	8.916	0.682
30. Review of International Political Economy	6.593	0.321	8.707	0.666
31. Journal of Conflict Resolution	6.308	0.378	8.691	0.665
32. Journal of Democracy	6.115	0.413	8.642	0.661
33. Political Quarterly	5.463	0.570	8.577	0.656
34. Politics and Society	6.196	0.375	8.522	0.652
35. International Political Science Review	5.640	0.482	8.360	0.640
36. Journal of Theoretical Politics	6.114	0.354	8.278	0.634
37. Journal of Peace Research	6.353	0.283	8.149	0.624
38. European Union Politics	5.929	0.366	8.097	0.620
39. Political Analysis	6.887	0.169	8.049	0.616
40. Nations and Nationalism	5.986	0.335	7.991	0.612

Table 2 (continued)

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
41. Journal of Public Policy	5.878	0.330	7.818	0.598
42. Political Science Quarterly	5.580	0.385	7.728	0.591
43. Canadian Journal of Political Science	5.512	0.394	7.685	0.588
44. Public Opinion quarterly	6.487	0.181	7.658	0.586
45. PS: Political Science and Politics	5.116	0.492	7.631	0.584
46. Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science	5.655	0.344	7.603	0.582
47. Legislative Studies Quarterly	6.129	0.240	7.599	0.582
48. Political Geography	6.215	0.221	7.588	0.581
49. Europe-Asia Studies (Soviet Studies)	6.165	0.216	7.497	0.574
50. American Journal of International Law	6.517	0.138	7.415	0.567
51. Security Studies	5.979	0.230	7.357	0.563
52. Political Behavior	6.319	0.164	7.354	0.563
53. Cooperation and Conflict	5.627	0.299	7.311	0.560
54. Perspectives on Politics	5.619	0.299	7.301	0.559
55. Journal of Legislative Studies	5.833	0.242	7.247	0.555
56. Public Administration Review	5.839	0.221	7.128	0.546
57. Australian Journal of Political Science	5.353	0.330	7.120	0.545
58. Public Choice	5.809	0.223	7.105	0.544
59. Political Research Quarterly	5.606	0.259	7.057	0.540
60. Revue Francaise de Science Politique	5.961	0.183	7.051	0.540
61. Political Psychology	6.300	0.119	7.048	0.539
62. Scandinavian Political Studies	5.574	0.257	7.004	0.536
63. Journal of Strategic Studies	5.907	0.178	6.959	0.533
64. Political Science	5.143	0.316	6.768	0.518
65. Review of Politics	5.459	0.233	6.730	0.515
66. East European Politics and Societies	5.658	0.188	6.720	0.514
67. Publius	5.610	0.195	6.702	0.513
68. Post-Soviet Affairs	6.021	0.112	6.693	0.512
69. Polity	5.324	0.257	6.690	0.512
70. Journal of Law and Economics	6.171	0.083	6.684	0.512
71. Political Communication	5.863	0.121	6.573	0.503
72. Politische Vierteljahresschrift	5.846	0.124	6.568	0.503
73. Latin American Politics and Society	5.932	0.105	6.552	0.501
74. Social Science Quarterly	5.660	0.126	6.373	0.488
75. Policy Studies Journal	5.435	0.164	6.326	0.484
76. Women and Politics	5.574	0.128	6.289	0.481
77. American Politics Research	5.220	0.195	6.236	0.477
78. Studies in Comparative and International Development	5.667	0.093	6.192	0.474
79. Public Interest	5.649	0.088	6.145	0.470
80. Law and Society Review	5.724	0.069	6.118	0.468

Table 2 (continued)

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
81. American Review of Public Administration	5.393	0.133	6.110	0.468
82. Policy Sciences	5.435	0.109	6.029	0.461
83. Acta Politica	5.012	0.202	6.024	0.461
84. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	5.567	0.071	5.963	0.456
85. Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica	5.063	0.114	5.640	0.432
86. Administration and Society	4.957	0.112	5.511	0.422
87. Studies in American Political Development	5.158	0.045	5.391	0.413
88. Presidential Studies Quarterly	4.900	0.095	5.366	0.411
89. Conflict Management and Peace Science	4.914	0.063	5.323	0.407
90. International Interactions	4.789	0.090	5.222	0.400
91. Canadian Public Administration	4.318	0.105	4.769	0.365
92. Canadian Public Policy	4.000	0.059	4.238	0.324

Note: The rating for each journal is based on respondents' placement of each journal on a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (outstanding). Familiarity is the proportion of respondents who are familiar with a given journal. Impact is measured to weight mean evaluations and familiarity and is calculated using the following formula: (mean rating) \* (familiarity \* mean rating).

Table 3. Canadian political scientists' impact, evaluation, and familiarity ratings of 92 political science journals, 2007

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
1. American Political Science Review	7.140	0.934	13.612	1.000
2. International Organization	7.962	0.623	12.955	0.938
3. British Journal of Political Science	7.125	0.767	12.732	0.922
4. Comparative Politics	7.210	0.754	12.647	0.916
5. American Journal of Political Science	6.797	0.836	12.480	0.904
6. World Politics	7.517	0.634	12.282	0.889
7. Comparative Political Studies	7.309	0.672	12.222	0.885
8. Canadian Journal of Political Science	6.163	0.940	11.955	0.866
9. Journal of Politics	7.008	0.650	11.566	0.837
10. European Journal of Political Research	7.033	0.497	10.530	0.762
11. International Studies Quarterly	7.035	0.470	10.341	0.749
12. Foreign Affairs	6.119	0.689	10.332	0.748
13. PS: Political Science and Politics	5.884	0.754	10.321	0.747
14. Politics and Society	6.800	0.492	10.144	0.734
15. Governance	6.475	0.541	9.977	0.722
16. Perspectives on Politics	6.697	0.466	9.953	0.721
17. International Security	7.186	0.363	9.934	0.719
18. International Political Science Review	5.771	0.716	9.902	0.717
19. European Journal of International Relations	7.239	0.366	9.889	0.716
20. Political Theory	7.424	0.322	9.817	0.711
21. Political Studies	6.602	0.461	9.777	0.708
22. Review of International Political Economy	6.917	0.393	9.638	0.698
23. Review of International Studies	7.000	0.372	9.601	0.695
24. Journal of Democracy	6.322	0.492	9.432	0.683
25. Philosophy and Public Affairs	7.500	0.240	9.303	0.674
26. Millennium--Journal of International Studies	6.375	0.437	9.162	0.663
27. Electoral Studies	6.852	0.333	9.137	0.661
28. Journal of Conflict Resolution	6.542	0.393	9.115	0.660
29. Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science	6.155	0.459	8.980	0.650
30. Publius	6.312	0.421	8.967	0.649
31. Party Politics	6.776	0.317	8.923	0.646
32. Canadian Public Policy	5.528	0.579	8.730	0.632
33. Public Administration Review	6.957	0.251	8.705	0.630
34. History of Political Thought	7.048	0.230	8.665	0.627
35. Public Administration	6.745	0.279	8.625	0.624
36. Canadian Public Administration	5.592	0.536	8.586	0.622
37. Political Science Quarterly	6.123	0.399	8.566	0.620
38. International Affairs	6.041	0.404	8.483	0.614
39. Journal of Common Market Studies	6.577	0.284	8.446	0.611
40. Government and Opposition	5.766	0.459	8.441	0.611

Table 3 (continued)

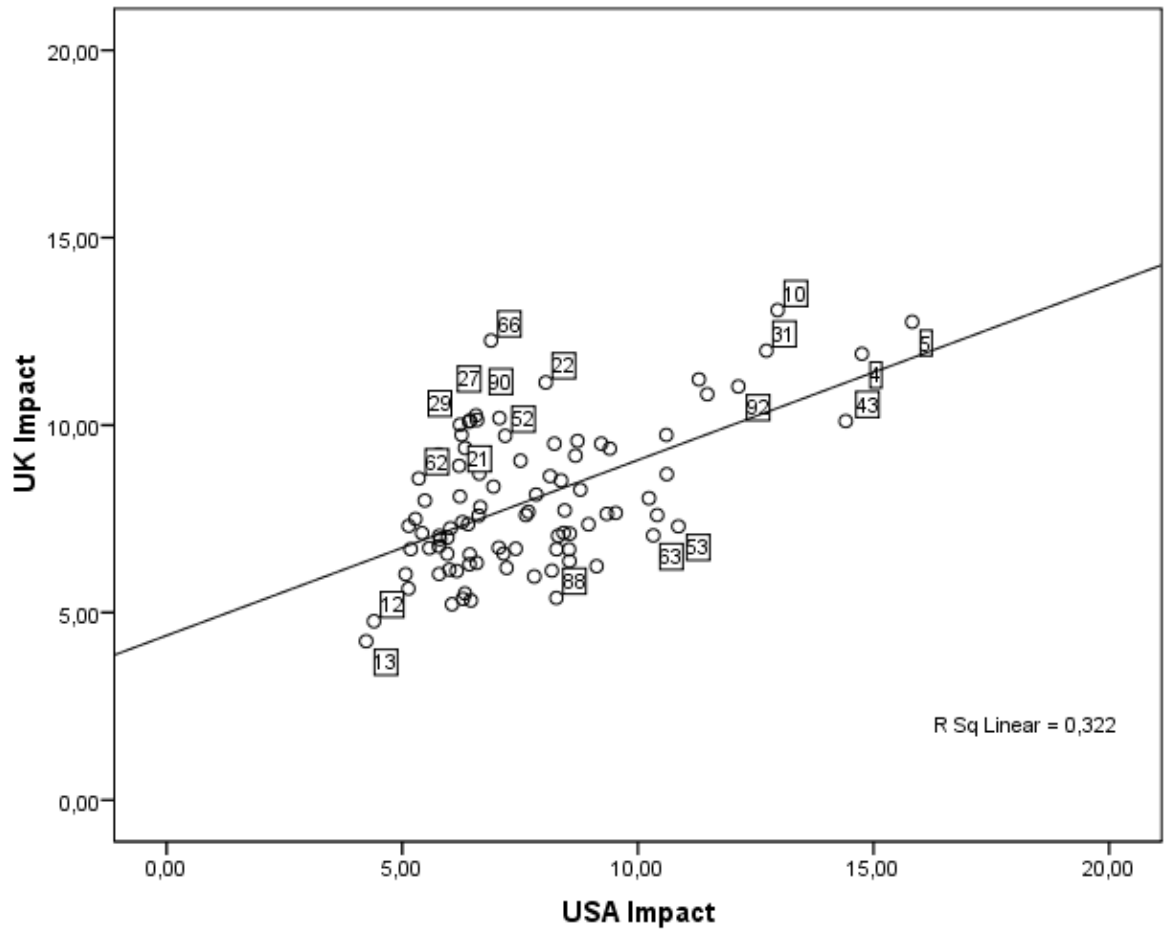
Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
41. Journal of European Public Policy	6.711	0.246	8.361	0.605
42. Political Research Quarterly	6.206	0.344	8.343	0.604
43. Political Analysis	7.000	0.186	8.301	0.601
44. Nations and Nationalism	6.614	0.240	8.204	0.594
45. Public Opinion quarterly	6.321	0.290	8.151	0.590
46. West European Politics	6.065	0.339	8.119	0.588
47. Journal of Law and Economics	6.771	0.191	8.067	0.584
48. Polity	5.924	0.361	8.061	0.584
49. Political Behavior	6.615	0.213	8.025	0.581
50. Journal of Peace Research	6.068	0.322	8.024	0.581
51. Latin American Politics and Society	6.813	0.175	8.004	0.579
52. Legislative Studies Quarterly	6.409	0.240	7.950	0.576
53. Journal of Theoretical Politics	6.348	0.251	7.943	0.575
54. Law and Society Review	6.541	0.202	7.863	0.569
55. Australian Journal of Political Science	5.560	0.410	7.839	0.568
56. Journal of Public Policy	6.326	0.235	7.812	0.566
57. Political Geography	6.613	0.169	7.733	0.560
58. Public Choice	5.847	0.322	7.733	0.560
59. Political Psychology	6.359	0.213	7.714	0.558
60. Political Science	5.797	0.322	7.665	0.555
61. Political Quarterly	5.807	0.311	7.616	0.551
62. Women and Politics	6.333	0.197	7.579	0.549
63. Security Studies	6.043	0.251	7.563	0.548
64. Policy Studies Journal	6.067	0.246	7.558	0.547
65. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	6.500	0.153	7.495	0.543
66. Policy Sciences	6.100	0.219	7.433	0.538
67. Review of Politics	5.894	0.257	7.407	0.536
68. American Journal of International Law	6.571	0.115	7.326	0.530
69. Revue Francaise de Science Politique	5.660	0.290	7.300	0.528
70. Social Science Quarterly	5.700	0.273	7.257	0.525
71. Political Communication	6.296	0.148	7.225	0.523
72. Studies in American Political Development	6.563	0.087	7.136	0.517
73. Studies in Comparative and International Development	5.941	0.186	7.045	0.510
74. European Union Politics	6.074	0.148	6.970	0.505
75. Cooperation and Conflict	5.879	0.180	6.939	0.502
76. Europe-Asia Studies (Soviet Studies)	6.400	0.082	6.925	0.501
77. Journal of Legislative Studies	5.964	0.153	6.877	0.498
78. American Politics Research	5.400	0.273	6.875	0.498
79. Democratization	5.639	0.197	6.748	0.489
80. Conflict Management and Peace Science	5.815	0.148	6.673	0.483

Table 3 (continued)

Journal	Mean Rating (0-10)	Proportion Familiar	Impact	Relative Impact
81. Scandinavian Political Studies	5.600	0.191	6.671	0.483
82. American Review of Public Administration	5.486	0.202	6.596	0.478
83. Administration and Society	5.545	0.18	6.545	0.474
84. Journal of Strategic Studies	5.731	0.142	6.545	0.474
85. East European Politics and Societies	5.783	0.126	6.509	0.471
86. Post-Soviet Affairs	5.938	0.087	6.457	0.467
87. Presidential Studies Quarterly	5.762	0.115	6.423	0.465
88. Public Interest	5.281	0.175	6.205	0.449
89. Politische Vierteljahresschrift	5.667	0.066	6.038	0.437
90. International Interactions	4.943	0.191	5.888	0.426
91. Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica	5.000	0.044	5.219	0.378
92. Acta Politica	4.542	0.131	5.137	0.372

Note: The rating for each journal is based on respondents' placement of each journal on a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (outstanding). Familiarity is the proportion of respondents who are familiar with a given journal. Impact is measured to weight mean evaluations and familiarity and is calculated using the following formula: (mean rating) \* (familiarity \* mean rating).

Fig. 1. Relationship between journal impact, UK and USA



**Fig. 2. Relationship between journal impact, Canada and USA**

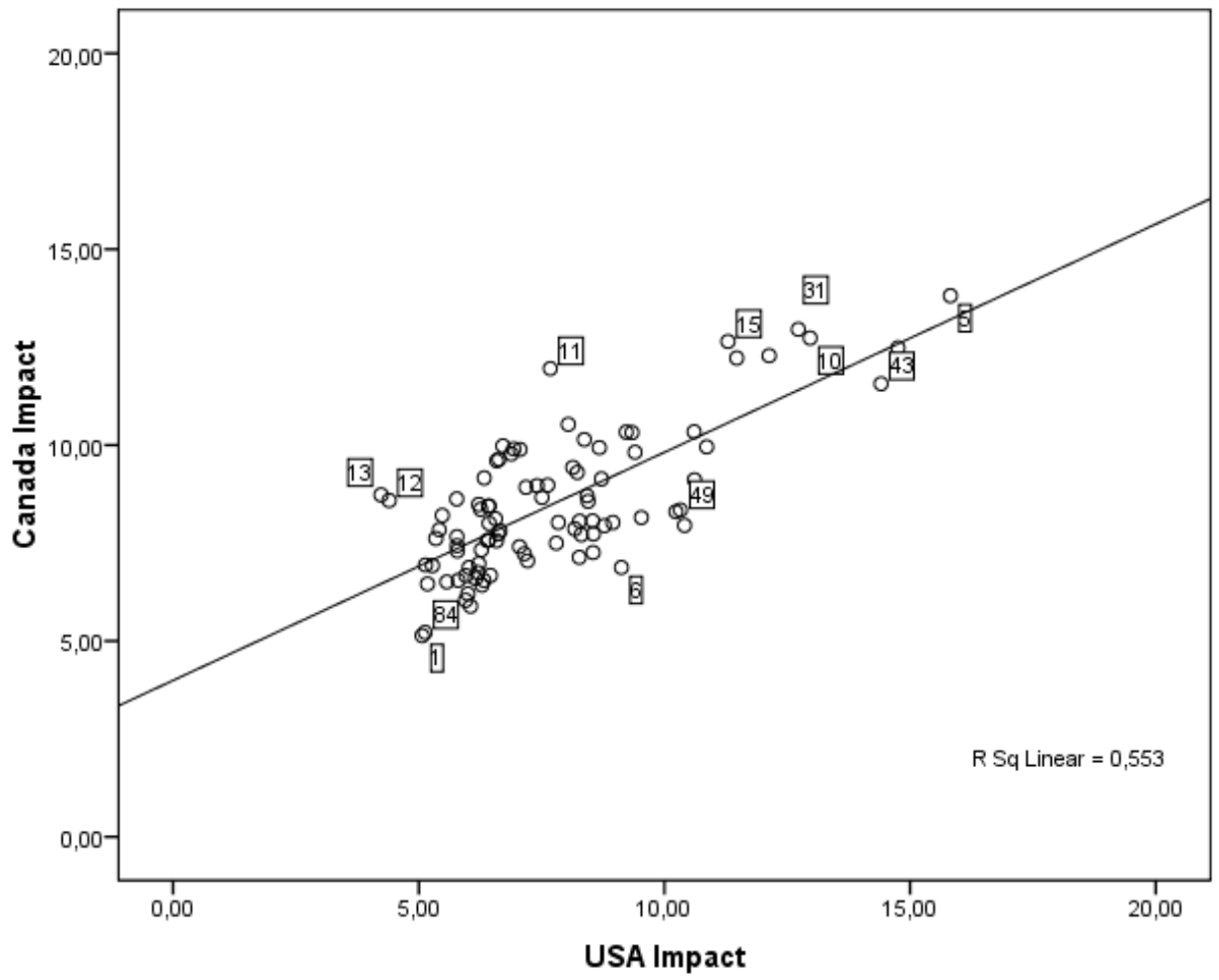
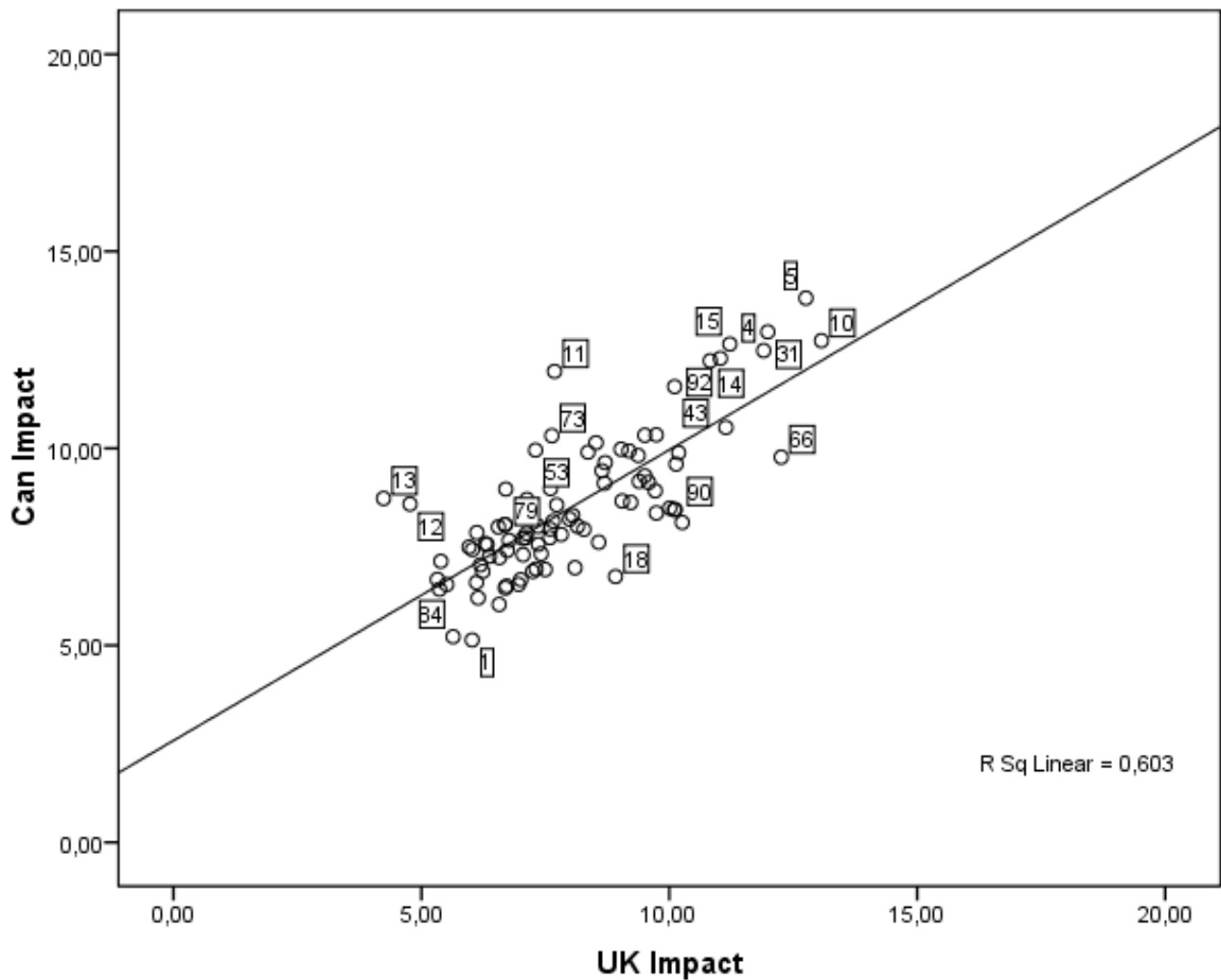


Fig 3. Relationship between journal impact, Canada and UK



# id journal in Figs 1-3

- 1 Acta Politica
- 2 Administration and Society
- 3 American Journal of International Law
- 4 American Journal of Political Science
- 5 American Political Science Review
- 6 American Politics Research
- 7 American Review of Public Administration  
Annals of American Academy of Political and Social
- 8 Science
- 9 Australian Journal of Political Science
- 10 British Journal of Political Science
- 11 Canadian Journal of Political Science
- 12 Canadian Public Administration
- 13 Canadian Public Policy
- 14 Comparative Political Studies
- 15 Comparative Politics
- 16 Conflict Management and Peace Science
- 17 Cooperation and Conflict
- 18 Democratization
- 19 East European Politics and Societies
- 20 Electoral Studies

21 European Journal of International Relations  
22 European Journal of Political Research  
23 European Union Politics  
24 Europe-Asia Studies (Soviet Studies)  
25 Foreign Affairs  
26 Governance  
27 Government and Opposition  
28 History of Political Thought  
29 International Affairs  
30 International Interactions  
31 International Organization  
32 International Political Science Review  
33 International Security  
34 International Studies Quarterly  
35 Journal of Common Market Studies  
36 Journal of Conflict Resolution  
37 Journal of Democracy  
38 Journal of European Public Policy  
39 Journal of Law and Economics  
40 Journal of Legislative Studies  
41 Journal of Peace Research  
42 Journal of Policy Analysis and Management  
43 Journal of Politics  
44 Journal of Public Policy  
45 Journal of Strategic Studies  
46 Journal of Theoretical Politics  
47 Latin American Politics and Society  
48 Law and Society Review  
49 Legislative Studies Quarterly  
50 Millennium--Journal of International Studies  
51 Nations and Nationalism  
52 Party Politics  
53 Perspectives on Politics  
54 Philosophy and Public Affairs  
55 Policy Sciences  
56 Policy Studies Journal  
57 Political Analysis  
58 Political Behavior  
59 Political Communication  
60 Political Geography  
61 Political Psychology  
62 Political Quarterly  
63 Political Research Quarterly  
64 Political Science  
65 Political Science Quarterly  
66 Political Studies  
67 Political Theory  
68 Politics and Society  
69 Politische Vierteljahresschrift  
70 Polity  
71 Post-Soviet Affairs  
72 Presidential Studies Quarterly  
73 PS: Political Science and Politics  
74 Public Administration

- 75 Public Administration Review
- 76 Public Choice
- 77 Public Interest
- 78 Public Opinion Quarterly
- 79 Publius
- 80 Review of International Political Economy
- 81 Review of International Studies
- 82 Review of Politics
- 83 Revue Française de Science Politique
- 84 Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica
- 85 Scandinavian Political Studies
- 86 Security Studies
- 87 Social Science Quarterly
- 88 Studies in American Political Development
- 89 Studies in Comparative and International Development
- 90 West European Politics
- 91 Women and Politics
- 92 World Politics

## **Appendix: UK respondent and population demographics**

Table A1. UK & Ireland respondents to our survey compared to the UK profession

	Respondents	UK university political scientists
Pre-1992 university	85.19%	81.3%
Has Ph.D	99.1%	87.7%
Female	24.5%	26.3%
Professor	30.8%	30.21%
Other senior (Reader, Senior Lecturer etc)	31.2%	32.51%
Lecturer	30.4%	27.73%
Non-tenure track	7.5%	9.55%

Source of col. 3: PSA Survey of the Profession 2006, by kind courtesy of PSA.

### ***The questionnaire (UK version)***

#### **CROSS-NATIONAL JOURNAL RANKINGS SURVEY (British Final Draft)**

1. With what college or university are you presently affiliated?

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2. In what country is your university located?

- 1 United States
- 2 Canada
- 3 United Kingdom

3. What is the highest degree offered in Political Science at your institution?

- 1 B.A. (or its equivalent)
- 2 M.A.; M.P.A.
- 3 Ph.D.

4. At which university did you receive your highest degree?

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5. In what country is this university located?

---

6. What is your age (in years)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is your sex?

- 1 Female

2 Male

8. What is your academic rank?

- 1 Lecturer
- 2 Senior Lecturer
- 3 Reader
- 4 Professor
- 5 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you hold the position of Chair or Head of your department?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

10. Which of the following sub-disciplines of political science encompass(as) your major research interest(s)? (Indicate up to four responses.)

- 1 American politics
- 2 Canadian politics
- 3 British politics
- 4 Comparative (cross-national) politics
- 5 Area studies
- 6 International relations
- 7 Political behavior
- 8 Public law and/or judicial politics
- 9 Political theory and philosophy
- 10 Political methodology
- 11 Public administration
- 12 Public policy
- 13 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. In your research, which of the following best describes the methodological approach that you most often employ? (Indicate up to two responses.)

- 1 Quantitative
- 2 Qualitative
- 3 Normative theory
4. Formal theory

12. Assume that you have just completed what you consider to be a very strong paper on a topic in your area of expertise. Indicate the first journal to which you would submit such a manuscript. Assuming that the paper is rejected at your first choice, please indicate the second and third journals to which you would submit the manuscript.

Journal #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Journal #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Journal #3 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Which journals do you read regularly or otherwise rely on for the best research in your area of expertise? (List up to five journals)

Journal #1 \_\_\_\_\_



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