

Editors' Report for 2004

POLITICAL STUDIES

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For the Executive Meeting of the Political Studies Association, January 2005

1. INPUTS: *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review*

Article and Review Submissions

We are happy to be able to say that in 2004 the number of submissions again surpassed all previous totals. Table 1.1 shows that submissions in 2004 were more than twice those received per year in the period 1998-2000. This year, we had 213 article submissions to *Political Studies* and 13 review article submissions to *Political Studies Review*. Previous years' figures can be compared below:

Table 1.1: Comparison of Total Submissions, 1995-2004

2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
226	199	184	170	113	92	118	125	125	114

This year, the range of subject areas represented by the 226 submissions has changed. Following a dip in numbers last year, Political Theory submissions are once again high. We have seen a welcome significant rise for both Comparative and International Relations papers, and a small but steady growth in North American papers. British and Irish politics submissions have remained relatively stable. Other subject areas, such as Other Areas, Europe and Asia-Pacific dropped back slightly. The comparison table is below:

Table 1.2: Comparison of Article Submissions by Subject, 2000-2004

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Political Theory	75	57	71	69	48
Britain & Ireland	44	46	43	28	31
Comparative	27	10	16	15	6
Other Areas	26	30	12	21	8
Europe	23	29	27	19	12
IR	15	10	9	10	2
North America	12	10	3	5	2
Asia-Pacific	4	7	3	3	4
Total	226	199	184	170	113

Review article submissions to *PSR* have increased and are spread across the subject areas. Pieces commissioned by the Editors were reduced in line with the launch plan for *PSR*.

Table 1.3 shows the geographical location of authors for article submissions. As the table shows, we have seen a rise in papers from both Europe and North America. This undoubtedly reflects the work that the Association and Blackwells are doing with APSA and the ECPR through well-branded receptions and linkages, which are resulting in a higher profile for the Association's journals. In addition, the Editors have attended all the APSA conferences during their period in office and talked with potential authors at panels, receptions and events. In 2004, for instance, Patrick Dunleavy spoke to an audience of around 300 as one of the editors in a 'Getting Published' session. The Editors also confer annually with American colleagues at the APSA Editors meeting. Finally the www.politicalstudies.org site is a key way in which potential authors find out about the journal (see below). Overall, authors were located in 30 countries over six continents.

Table 1.3: Submissions by continent, 2001-2004

CONTINENT	2004	2003	2002	2001
Europe	156	135	122	84
North America	41	28	34	19
Asia	16	17	11	14
Australia/Oceania	11	15	13	6
Africa	1	2	3	1
South America	1	2	1	0

We now look at the gender of authors for submitted articles. Table 1.4 shows the overall growth in the percentage of women authors submitting to *PS* and *PSR*. We welcome this continued growth and feel sure that the Association's recent work in focusing on this aspect is helping the situation. We are also happy to say that the percentage of authors who are women for papers published in both journals in 2004 has risen to 32%. This is up from 14% last year.

Table 1.4: Percentages of Articles Submitted by Women

2004	2003	2002	2001
34%	30%	23%	20%

Table 1.5 below shows the numbers and percentages of article submissions from women authors broken down into subject areas. The subject areas for women authors changed slightly this year. Just over a quarter of women authors submitted papers within Other Areas, followed by British and Irish politics, Political Theory and Europe. These four areas accounted for 85% of women authors' submissions in 2003 and 2004.

Table 1.5: Numbers and Percentages of Women Authors' Papers by Subject Area, 2003-2004

Subject Area	2004			2003	
	Women Number	Women Per cent	All Authors Per Cent	Women Number	Women Per cent
Other Areas	19	26	12	16	23
Britain & Ireland	16	22	20	13	18
Political Theory	15	20	33	17	24
Europe	14	19	10	14	20
Comparative	6	8	12	3	4
Int. Relations	3	4	7	5	7
North America	1	1	5	0	0
Asia-Pacific	0	0	2	3	4

2. **PROCESS: Response times for *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review***

As Table 2.1 shows, this year we have processed four fifths of all articles within four months, which is our target period. This is down very slightly from last year (at 81%). We have found it increasingly difficult to find referees, and then to get reports back on time this year. Speaking to other journal editors at the APSA Editors meeting and other conferences, this seems to be a growing concern for journals across the board.

Table 2.1: Time from Submission to Decision

Months	Number	Per cent
1	32	23
2	20	14
3	33	25
4	25	18
5	15	11
6	6	4
7+	7	5

Table 2.2 shows the decision rates on the articles that were submitted to us this year. We had a large number of papers submitted in the last three months of the year, so that a higher percentage than normal (31% as opposed to last year's 23%) are still being processed at the time of writing. This will have skewed the rest of the figures slightly. However, the acceptance rate has dropped, as has the rejection rate. The rate of revise and resubmit decisions has increased. The numbers of papers submitted and printed within the year has also remained stable.

Table 2.2: Decision rates on all articles submitted in 2004

Category	Number	Per cent
In process	70	31
Accepted	38	17
Revised and resubmit	30	13
Rejected	74	33
Printed	14	6
TOTAL	226	100

Table 2.3 below shows how long it took from acceptance to publication for those articles that appeared in Volume 52 of *Political Studies* and Volume 2 of *Political Studies Review*. The time taken for papers to be published has remained relatively stable, with 60% of papers being published within seven months. Some papers have taken longer to be published, when it is necessary to hold them over to ensure a subject balance within each issue.

Table 2.3: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published during 2004

Months	Number	Per cent
4	11	20
5	4	7
6	6	11
7	12	22
8	2	4
9	5	9
10	7	13
11	3	5
12	5	9
Total	55	100

Table 2.4 shows the location of article referees. One of the Associate Editors, or sometimes a relevant LSE academic, internally referees all the articles that are submitted to both *PS* and *PSR*. We then ask three external referees to look over virtually all articles submitted to the journals. Only those that are quite obviously below the standard of the journals are not refereed. The table

below shows the main institutions where our article reviewers are drawn from, along with the numbers of referees used from countries outside the UK.

As in previous years, academics from over 50 institutions around the UK and over 20 countries acted as referees. As ever, we would like to express our profound thanks to colleagues who give so unstintingly and helpfully of their time.

Table 2.4: Location of Article Referees for Papers Submitted during 2004

London	37	Open	6	United States	50
Scotland	24	York	6	Australia	29
Sheffield	12	Hull	5	Canada	16
Wales	10	Kent	5	Ireland	15
Birmingham	10	Leicester	5	Netherlands	9
Essex	9	Exeter	4	Germany	8
Nottingham	9	Keele	4	Denmark	7
Bristol	8	Bradford	3	Turkey	6
Cambridge	8	Brunel	3	Belgium	5
Oxford	8	DMU	3	Israel	5
Leeds	7	Lincoln	3	Sweden	5
Manchester	7	Middlesex	3	Norway	4
Warwick	7	UWE	3	Switzerland	4
Lancaster	7			New Zealand	3
				South Africa	3
				Spain	3
				Finland	2
				France	2
				Hungary	2

3. OUTPUTS: Published articles and books

Articles and Review Articles

This year we published 47 articles in *Political Studies* and 7 review articles in *Political Studies Review*. Table 3.1 shows the subject area breakdown for papers published across both journals for this year, with 2003 included as a comparison. Essentially, the shares of published articles are influenced by changes in the submissions patterns of the year before – for instance, political theory papers were fewer in 2004 because of a (temporary) drop in theory submissions in 2003. However, as we have had more papers to choose from this year, we have been able to increase slightly some of the subject areas that were weaker last year, while maintaining a strong commitment to those subject areas that the journal is well known for. We hope this will be able to continue in the future.

Table 3.1: Subject areas of papers published in 2003 and 2004

Subject Area	2004	2003
Political Theory	14	20
Britain and Ireland	11	12
Europe	8	7
Comparative	7	5
Asia-Pacific	4	2
Other Areas	4	4
International Relations	3	2
North America	3	1
Total	54	53

Book Reviews

The table below shows the number of reviews published in *Political Studies Review* by subject areas over the last three issues of the journal. This year's book reviews total has gone down to 341 books reviewed. Partly this reflects a slight drop in the total number of books sent to the *PS* office this year (see below). Nonetheless, it has also been more difficult this year to get reviews completed and sent back by referees, no doubt reflecting the increased time pressures that all academics are under.

Table 3.2: Book reviews published in 2004 by subject area

Subject Area	2004
Political Theory	92
Europe	51
North America	33
Comparative	49
Britain and Ireland	25
Asia-Pacific	19
Other Areas	19
International Relations	19
TOTAL	341

We show online the entire list of newly received books in order for our reviewers to see and request books more quickly. We also list books received in the journal, but after a short delay. As Table 3.3 shows, the numbers of books listed has dropped slightly this year. Thanks to the increased take up of online volunteering to review books, some books are being reviewed before they have been listed in the journal, which helps maintain the timeliness of reviews.

Table 3.3: Books listed in PSR in 2004

Issue	2004
January	585
April	357
September	533
TOTAL	1475

Table 3.4 below shows the institutional location of many of book reviewers from the UK along with the numbers of reviewers from particular countries who have contributed to *PSR* this year. We have again found that receptions held at conferences throughout the year are a good way of introducing academics from other countries to the journals, and therefore, the Association. The work Blackwells are doing with electronic consortia also seems to have increased the numbers of academics who want to be involved with the journals.

Table 3.4: Location of Book Reviewers in 2003 and 2004 Issues of PSR

Country	2004	2003	UK	2004	2003
USA	40	52	London	35	33
Canada	14	14	Scotland	18	17
Ireland	13	15	Oxford	13	13
Australia	12	13	Sheffield	12	10
Italy	9	3	Wales	11	13
Netherlands	7	6	Bristol	9	11
Spain	7	0	Cambridge	7	8
Belgium	5	2	Manchester	7	12
Hungary	5	5	Nottingham	6	5
Argentina	4	0	Birmingham	5	9
Fiji	4	0	Essex	5	10
Poland	4	0	Kent	5	4
Sweden	4	4	Newcastle	5	2
Turkey	4	0	Northern Ireland	5	6
Brazil	3	0	Bath	4	8
Denmark	3	0	Leeds	4	7
Germany	3	5	Sussex	4	5
India	2	3	Warwick	4	9
New Zealand	2	0	DMU	3	0
Slovakia	2	0	Durham	3	6
South Africa	2	0	Hull	3	1
Hong Kong	1	4	Keele	3	9
Japan	1	4	Lancaster	3	4
Lebanon	1	0	Leicester	3	2
Russia	1	0	Liverpool	3	3
Singapore	1	2	Loughborough	3	0
Ukraine	1	0	UEA	3	1

4. OUTCOMES: Impact of Political Studies

Political Studies ranking has again risen by three places in the ISI Journal Citation Index for political science journals in 2003 to 28th out of 78 political science journals. Our ranking has risen from 34th in 2001 and 31st in 2002. Our total cites for the year rose from 226 to 239.

We can also look at one statistic provided by Blackwells showing numbers for their e-alerting service for individuals who have signed up to receive information on the journals in the form of the table of contents via email each time a new issue is published on Synergy.

Table 4.1: Number receiving the PS and PSR E-Alerting service

	<i>Political Studies</i>		<i>PSR</i>	
	Dec 2003	Nov 2004	Dec 2003	Nov 2004
Number of users signed up for TOC email alerts	257	581	172	495

This shows a large increase in the number of individuals signed up for e-alerting in 2004 compared to 2003.

Development of www.politicalstudies.org

We are happy to say that the number of visitors to the Political Studies website has continued to grow this year. The table below shows the web statistics for the whole of 2004. As in 2003, the month with the highest hits and visitor figures was November, where we recorded just over 178,000 hits and just under 4000 unique visitors to the site. Just under 32,000 people visited the site during the year. The amount of files downloaded from the site has also increased.

Table 4.2: Web statistics for www.politicalstudies.org during 2004

2004	Entire Hits	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Total files and KB Transferred
January	123,132	9,736	2,272	321,000
February	135,172	11,066	2,515	430,000
March	149,864	12,393	3,059	424,000
April	150,760	11,575	2,700	385,000
May	132,330	10,343	2,534	347,000
June	108,180	8,394	2,059	285,000
July	104,565	7,038	1,840	356,000
August	111,297	7,759	1,937	519,000
September	156,684	10,817	2,553	676,000
October	162,036	12,809	3,330	767,000
November	178,178	14,079	3,895	901,000

December	131,603	10,567	3,117	692,000
TOTALS	1,643,801	126,576	31,811	6,103,000

Table 4.3 below looks back over the years since the launch of the *Political Studies* website. It shows both a deepening of the site's usage as it becomes better known and networked and an increased number of visitors. The site is now a fundamental part of the journal's operations and a key way in which potential authors, reviewers and readers learn what we do and about the excellence of our journals. The index numbers show that more than two and a half as many people visited the site in 2004 compared with 2001 and that files transferred have more than tripled in the same period.

Year	Unique Visitors		Files Transferred (Million Kilobytes)	
	Number	Index Number	Number	Index Number
2001	12,700	100	1.96	100
2002	18,600	147	2.71	111
2003	22,200	175	3.07	157
2004	31,800	251	6.10	311
TOTALS	85,300	-	13.85	-