

Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review **Annual report for 2005**

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1. Thanks

We are very grateful to all our colleagues who have extended their support so generously to the journals. Without the time and expertise freely given by reviewers (of both articles and books) the journals could not function. The care with which our reviewers read article submissions contributes greatly to the high standards of *Political Studies*.

2. Changes

2.1 Editorial team

In July 2005 the journals moved from the LSE to the University of Sheffield. The new editorial board consists of Matthew Festenstein, Martin Smith, Katharine Adeney, Sean Carey, Andrew Geddes, John Hobson and Rhiannon Vickers. Robin Brown (Leeds) and Gurpreet Mahajan (Jawaharlal Nehru) joined the international advisory board. The new journals manager is Victoria Smith. The new editorial team wishes to thank the LSE for ensuring a smooth handover.

2.2 Electronic editorial office

In December 2005 we set up a new online submission and review site for *Political Studies* at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/post> . We feel that this will help us to bring down the time from submission to first decision and will help us to build up an improved database of appropriate reviewers for articles.

2.3 Design and production

During the second half of 2005 we worked on new cover designs for both journals and a new internal design for *Political Studies Review* ready for launch in January 2006.

After some problems with the copy editing of both journals during the latter half of 2005, a new copy editor was appointed by Blackwells from January 2006.

3 INPUTS

3.1 Submissions

We are pleased that the rate of submissions has remained steady. Final figures show that for the full year 2005 PS had 204 submissions (compared to 213 in 2004) and PSR had 22 submissions (compared to 13 in 2004). A table of comparison of total submissions to both journals since 1995 follows:

Table 3.1.1 Comparison of total article submissions, 1995-2005

2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
226	226	199	184	170	113	92	118	125	125	114

The table below shows that we are receiving more submissions than ever in political theory with a drop in submissions on Britain and Ireland and on Europe. IR is up significantly.

Table 3.1.2: Total article submissions by subject, 2000-2005

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Political theory	93	75	57	71	69	48
Britain & Ireland	36	44	46	43	28	31
Comparative	29	27	10	16	15	6
Other areas	27	26	30	12	21	8
Europe	12	23	29	27	19	12
IR	21	15	10	9	10	2
North America	6	12	10	3	5	2
Asia-Pacific	2	4	7	3	3	4
Total	226	226	199	184	170	113

Table 3.1.3 Total article submissions by geographical location of lead author, 2001-2005

Continent	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Europe	161	156	135	122	84
North America	36	41	28	34	19
Asia	18	16	17	11	14
Australia/Oceania	7	11	15	13	6
Africa	3	1	2	3	1
South America	1	1	2	1	0

3.2 Commissions

We have put a good deal of effort into commissioning new review articles and symposia for *Political Studies Review* during the second half of 2005. The results of these efforts will become apparent during 2006 and later. For example, we have review symposia on books by Steven Lukes, Michael Mann and Sir Lawrence Freedman coming up, as well as articles on themes such as the 2005 election and Thatcherism. There is also a forthcoming symposium on 'The state post 9/11' in *Political Studies*.

4 PROCESS

4.1 Response times

As Table 4.1 shows, this year we have processed 78.89 per cent of all articles within four months which was the target period for previous years. For comparison, in 2004 80 per cent were processed within four months. Our new target period is for the period from submission to first decision to be less than three months. Scholar One is already helping us to improve our response times dramatically.

Table 4.1: Time from submission to first decision in 2005

Months	Per cent
1	22.36
2	15.53
3	25.47
4	15.53
5	10.56
6	3.73
7+	6.83

4.2 Acceptance/rejection rates

Table 4.2 shows decision rates on articles submitted to us this year. For ease of comparison with previous years, the data shows the situation as at 31 December 2005. The percentage in process has dropped.

Table 4.2 Acceptance/rejection rates for total article submissions in 2005

Category	Number	Per cent
In process	48	21.24
Accepted	51	22.57
Revise and resubmit	46	20.35
Rejected	72	31.86
Printed	9	3.98
TOTAL	226	100

4.3 Acceptance to publication

Table 4.3 below shows how long it took from acceptance to publication for those articles that appeared in Volume 53 of *Political Studies* and Volume 3 of *Political Studies Review*.

Table 4.3: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published during 2005

Months	Political Studies	Political Studies Review
4		5
5	4	1

6	7	2
7	6	
8	10	
9	4	
10	5	
11		
12	1	
13	3	
14	2	
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21	1	
Total	43	8*

*One article did not have an acceptance date so is not included in these figures.

5 OUTPUTS

5.1 Published articles

This year we published 43 articles in *Political Studies* (compared to 43 in 2004) and 9 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (compared to 7 in 2004).

5.2 Published book reviews

370 reviews were published in Volume 3 of *Political Studies Review* in 2005 compared to 341 in Volume 2 in 2004.

6 OUTCOMES

6.1 Impact of *Political Studies*

In 2004 (the last year for which figures are available) *Political Studies* ranked 53rd out of 78 political science journals in the ISI Journal Citation Index for impact factor. This was a drop from 28th in 2003.* Total cites for 2004 were 311 compared to 239 for the previous year – a significant increase. On total cites the journal ranked 25th compared to 28th the previous year. Our long-term aim is to improve the ranking of *Political Studies* both by impact factor and total cites by publishing high-quality articles which speak to more than one subfield of the discipline.

* The impact factor is a very blunt although widely used measure. The 2004 figure is calculated by counting the number of citations during 2004 to articles published in 2002 and 2003 divided by the number of articles published in 2002 and 2003.

Another useful measure of impact is the numbers of individuals signed up via Blackwell synergy for table of contents e-alerts. There has been a significant increase in those signed up for this service for both journals this year.

Table 6.1: Number receiving the *PS* and *PSR* E-Alerting service

	<i>Political Studies</i>		<i>PSR</i>	
	Dec 2004	Dec 2005	Dec 2004	Dec 2005
Individuals signed up for TOC e-alerts	692	1381	606	1228