

Political Studies and Political Studies Review **Annual report for 2006**

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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 both *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review*.

2. Changes

2.1 Administrative staff

Victoria Smith left PS and PSR on 5 October 2006 and was replaced by Rene Bailey. Dawn King continues to work part-time as Reviews Co-ordinator, providing an invaluable service to the journal in terms of handling the steady stream of review titles and obtaining timely reviews for publication.

2.2 Electronic editorial office

Manuscript Central, the online submission and review site for *Political Studies* (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/post>) is generally working well, although it is possible that more people now decline to review due to the automated process. The benefit of the system is the ability for all authors and members of the editorial team to track manuscripts throughout the process.

From January of this year articles accepted for *Political Studies* are also being published online prior to their appearance in print thanks to the OnlineEarly system. We now have 6 articles published online and a further 8 in production.

2.3 Journal production

Copy editing and production of both journals is conducted to a very high standard thanks to the professionalism of the team at Blackwells, and frequent liaison with the editorial office in Sheffield ensures that any problems are highlighted early and resolved in an efficient and timely manner.

3 INPUTS

3.1 Submissions

From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 we received the following submissions:

On-line submissions for Political Studies (new)	190
On-line submissions for Political Studies (revised)	53
Submissions of review articles for Political Studies Review	15
Total submissions to both journals	258

Compare this to 246 for the full year for 2005.

Table 3.1.1 Comparison of total article submissions (PS and PSR), 1995-2006

2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
258	246	226	199	184	170	113	92	118	125	125	114

The table below shows that submissions to the Journal continue to increase, with the majority focussing on political theory. Submissions on Europe, International Relations, North America and Asia-Pacific have all increased noticeably, while those on comparative topics and other areas have fallen.

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

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Political theory	113	93	75	57	71	69	48
Britain & Ireland	38	36	44	46	43	28	31
Comparative	17	29	27	10	16	15	6
Other areas	12	27	26	30	12	21	8
Europe	21	12	23	29	27	19	12
IR	34	21	15	10	9	10	2
North America	10	6	12	10	3	5	2
Asia-Pacific	13	2	4	7	3	3	4
Total	258	226*	226	199	184	170	113

* PS only

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

Continent	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Europe	163	161	156	135	122	84
North America	44	36	41	28	34	19
Asia	30	18	16	17	11	14
Australia/Oceania	16	7	11	15	13	6
Africa	3	3	1	2	3	1
South America	2	1	1	2	1	0
Total	258	226*	226	199	184	170

* PS only

3.2 Commissions

A number of symposium articles have been commissioned to appear in *Political Studies Review*, including discussions of Stephen Lukes' *Power: A Radical View*, Lawrence Freedman's *Official History of the Falklands Campaign*, and Thatcher's Legacy (forthcoming).

A symposium of articles on *Sovereignty post-9/11* is currently in preparation to appear in the next issue of *Political Studies*.

4 PROCESS

4.1 Response times

Of the 243 on-line submissions, we made decisions on 222 (91%). Of these, 171 decisions were on new submissions and 51 on revised submissions.

Of the 171 new on-line submissions with decisions, we made 80% of decisions in 3 months or less (the new target deadline for 2006).

For comparison, in 2004 and 2005, 80% and 79% of decisions, respectively, were made in 4 months.

Table 4.1: Time from submission to first decision in 2006 and 2005

Months	Number of new submissions where decisions were made	%	2005 response rates
1	33	19	22
2	61	36	15.5
3	42	25	25.5
4	28	16	15.5
5	6	3.5	10.5
6+	1	0.5	4
7+	0	0	7

The decision rate on revised submissions in 2006 was 55% within 1 month; 35% within 2 months and 10% within 3 months (N = 51).

4.2 Acceptance/rejection rates

Table 4.2 shows decision rates on articles submitted to us during 2006. For ease of comparison with previous years, the data shows the situation as at 31 December 2006 and includes revised submissions. The percentage in process has dropped for the second year running, while the number of submissions rejected has increased from 72 to 129.

Table 4.2 Acceptance/rejection rates for total article submissions to Political Studies in 2006

Category	Number	%
In process	21	9
Accept	22	9
Minor revision	31	13
Revise and resubmit	40	16
Rejected	129	53
TOTAL	243	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 54 of *Political Studies* and Volume 4 of *Political Studies Review*.

Table 4.3: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published during 2006

Months	Political Studies	Political Studies Review
3		1
4	1	3
5		1
6	1	2
7	1	3
8	2	1
9	3	5
10	3	
11	7	
12	8	
13	11	
14	2	
15	1	
16		
17		
18	1	
31	1	
Total	42	16

5 OUTPUTS

5.1 Published articles

This year we published 42 articles in *Political Studies* (compared to 43 in 2005) and 16 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (compared to 9 in 2005).

5.2 Published book reviews

343 reviews were published in Volume 4 of *Political Studies Review* in 2006, compared to 370 in Volume 3 (2005), 341 in Volume 2 (2004), and 375 in Volume 1 (2003).

6 OUTCOMES

6.1 Impact of *Political Studies*

In 2005 (the last year for which figures are available) *Political Studies* ranked 35th out of 84 political science journals in the ISI Journal Citation Index for impact factor. This was an improvement from 53rd in 2004, but still not as high as its ranking of 28th in 2003.

Total citations for 2005 were 337 compared to 311 in 2004 and 239 in 2003. On total citations the journal ranked 26th compared to 25th and 28th in 2005 and 2004, respectively. It remains our aim to improve the ranking of *Political Studies* both by impact factor and total citations, by publishing high-quality articles which speak to more than one subfield of the discipline.

Another useful measure of impact is the number of individuals signed up via Blackwell synergy for table of contents e-alerts. There have been substantial increases in the number of people signed up for this service for both journals over the last two years.

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

	<i>Political Studies</i>			<i>PSR</i>		
	Dec 06	Dec 05	Dec 04	Dec 06	Dec 05	Dec 04
Individuals signed up for TOC e-alerts	1763	1381	692	1570	1228	606