

Political Studies and Political Studies Review **Annual report for 2008**

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THANKS

We are very grateful to all our colleagues in the UK and from around the world who have extended their support so generously to the journals. Without the time and expertise freely given by our international pool of reviewers 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*.

1 INPUTS

From 1 January to 31 December 2008 we received the following submissions:

Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (new)	234
Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (revised)	88
Submissions of review articles for <i>Political Studies Review</i>	31
Total submissions to both journals	353

1.1 Submissions to *Political Studies*

It is encouraging to note that the increase in activity with regard to submissions to *Political Studies* that was noted at the end of 2007 has been sustained throughout 2008 (190 new submissions in 2006; 241 in 2007 and 234 in 2008).

This time last year there was a slight concern that the increase in submissions was due to the effect of RAE 2008, but the fact that a similar number of submissions was received in 2008 would suggest this was not the case. It is also encouraging to note that the increase in submissions from locations other than the UK and Europe has been sustained (39% of submissions in 2007; 43% in 2008).

Table 1: Origination of new papers to *Political Studies*

	2007	2008
No. of new papers submitted	252	234
UK	40%	36%
Europe	21%	21%
North America	20%	24%
Australasia	9%	3%
Asia/Pacific	3%	8%
Rest of World	7%	8%
	100%	100%

1.2 Submissions to *Political Studies Review*

Political Studies Review has seen a significant increase in its popularity, with the number of submissions to the journal rising 38% from 19 articles in 2007 to 31 articles in 2008. As the standing of the journal increases and more unsolicited articles are received, the editorial team has developed a more systematic and rigorous peer review system for submissions.

PSR has also continued its tradition of commissioning articles around themed symposia. In 2008 a symposium was commissioned that discussed the use of metrics in assessing performance and the value of the RAE exercise, and this was published in issue 7 (1) of the journal. Another symposium and 5 stand-alone articles have also been commissioned, while a further 8 have been proposed by authors and agreed in principle.

An encouraging trend has been the growth of submissions from outside the UK, with 16% of submissions in 2008 originating in Europe, 20% in North America and 3% from Asia, as shown in the table below.

Table 2: Origination of new papers to *PSR*

	2007	2008
No. of papers submitted	19	31
UK	74%	55%
Europe		16%
North America	16%	20%
Australasia	10%	3%
Asia/Pacific		3%
Rest of World		3%
	100%	100%

1.3 Historical comparison of submissions to *Political Studies* and *PSR*

Table 3: Total article submissions to *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* since 2000

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
113	170	184	199	226	246	258	339*	338*

* includes revisions but does not include papers unsubmitted or withdrawn

Table 4: Total article submissions to *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* by geographical location of lead author, 2002-2008

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
							PoSt**	PSR
UK and Europe	122	135	156	161	163	215	133	22
North America	34	28	41	36	44	64	56	6
Asia/Pacific	11	17	16	18	30	10	7	1
Australasia	13	15	11	7	16	31	19	1
Rest of World	4	4	2	4	5	19	19	1
Total	184*	199*	226*	226	258*	339*	234	31

* PoSt and PSR combined

** Figures do not include resubmissions

2 PROCESS

2.1 Manuscript status

The following table illustrates the status in January 2009 of the 322 articles submitted to *Political Studies* during 2008. The number of articles still in progress relates mainly to those papers submitted in November and December 2008.

Table 5: Status of new and revised submissions to *Political Studies* in 2008

	New submissions 2008			Revised submissions 2008			Total 2008		
Withdrawn/unsubmitted	15	6%	(21)	0	0%	(0)	15	5%	(21)
Decision - Reject	139	60%	(136)	8	9%	(7)	147	46%	(143)
Decision - Revise & Resubmit	32	14%	(49)	5	6%	(3)	37	11%	(52)
Decision - Minor Revision	4	2%	(13)	26	30%	(29)	30	9%	(42)
Decision - Accept	6	2%	(9)	40	45%	(48)	46	14%	(57)
In Progress	38	16%	(24)	9	10%	(2)	47	15%	(26)
Total	234	100%	(252)	88	100%	(89)	322	100%	(341)

2.2 Response times in 2008

Of the 322 new and revised submissions to *Political Studies*, we made decisions on 260 or 85%. In 2007 we received 320 submissions and made decisions on 92% of them in the corresponding period. The main reason for this drop in the number of manuscripts with decisions is the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to engage people to review a manuscript and that even once agreed, a review might not be forthcoming, all of which adds to the length of time required for the editors to reach a decision.

Of the 260 manuscripts with decisions in 2008, 181 decisions were on new submissions and 79 on revised papers.

Of the 181 new submissions with decisions, we made 94% of decisions in 3 months or less (compared to 80% in 2006 and 93% in 2007).

Table 6: Time taken to decision for new submissions to *Political Studies* in 2008 (2007 in brackets)

Months	Number of new submissions where decisions were made		%	
1	47	(68)	26	(33)
2	60	(65)	33	(31)
3	63	(59)	35	(29)
4	11	(12)	6	(6)
5	0	(3)	0	(1)

The decision rate on revised submissions in 2008 was 53% within 1 month; 29% within 2 months and 18% within 3 months (N = 79).

2.3 Acceptance/rejection rates

In 2007 59% of **new** submissions to *Political Studies* were rejected and 27% sent for revision. Of all **new and revised** submissions, 18% were accepted for publication.

In 2008 66% of **new** submissions to *Political Studies* were rejected and 16% sent for revision. Of all **new and revised** submissions, 14% were accepted for publication.

The table below shows decision rates on articles submitted between 2006 and 2008 and includes revised submissions.

Table 7: Acceptance/rejection rates for total article submissions to *Political Studies* 2006 – 2008

Status	2006		2007		2008	
	Number	%	Number	%		
In Progress	21	9	26	8	47	15
Decision - Accept	22	9	57	18	46	14
Decision - Minor revision	31	13	42	13	30	9
Decision - Revise and Resubmit	40	16	52	16	37	11
Decision – Reject	129	53	143	45	162	51
TOTAL	243	100	320	100	322	100

2.4 Acceptance by geographical location

Table 8: Origination of papers accepted or rejected (both journals) 2008

	Political Studies	PSR
No. of papers submitted	307	31
No. of papers accepted	46	19
No. of papers rejected	147	7

Table 9: Origination of papers accepted (new and revised)

	Political Studies		PSR	
UK	31	68%	12	63%
Europe	7	15%	2	11%
North America	7	15%	4	21%
Australasia	1	2%	1	5%
Asia/Pacific				
Rest of World				
	46	100%	19	100%

Table 10: Origination of papers rejected (new and revised)

	Political Studies		PSR	
UK	44	30%	2	29%
Europe	31	21%	4	57%
North America	35	24%		
Australasia	7	5%		
Asia/Pacific	13	9%	1	14%
Rest of World	17	12%		
	147	100%	7	100%

2.5 Acceptance to publication

The following table shows how long it took from acceptance to publication for those articles that appeared in Volume 56 of *Political Studies* and Volume 6 of *Political Studies Review*.

Table 11: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published during 2008

Months	Political Studies	PSR
1 - 3	1	
4 - 6	12	7
7 - 9	1	7
10 - 12		5
13 - 15	5	
16 - 18	18	
19 - 21	9	
22 - 24	1	
Total	47	19

One of the difficulties we are experiencing as a result of our success in attracting article submissions is that our lead times for publication are often 16 months or more and we have therefore taken two significant steps to counteract this.

The first is to ensure that once an article has been accepted it enters the 'Early View' online publication process as quickly as possible. As a consequence we can ensure that most articles appear online within 6 to 9 months from acceptance.

The second step has been to increase the page budget for *Political Studies* by 100 pages per volume, and thus it is possible to include more articles per issue printed. However, this does have a negative consequence because without a corresponding increase in citations the increase in the number of articles published has a downward impact on the journal's ISI ranking.

3 OUTPUTS

3.1 Published articles

In 2008 we published 47 articles in *Political Studies* and 19 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (PSR).

This compares to 42 articles in *Political Studies* and 17 in *PSR* in 2007; and 42 in *Political Studies* and 16 in *PSR* in 2006.

3.2 Early View

Every issue of *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* is now available via the online Wiley InterScience site, where there is also a link to articles published in Early View.

The Early View online editorial facility means that the production process for both print and online publication has been greatly streamlined and that once accepted all articles can be prepared for publication within 6 to 9 months. Since January 2009 the Early View process is also available to articles accepted for *Political Studies Review*.

3.3 Virtual issues

A further strategy in enhancing the profile of *Political Studies* and utilising the journal's extensive archive is the development of content-specific Virtual Issues. These issues can be accessed either through the main *Political Studies* home page (<http://www.politicalstudies.org/>) or via Wiley InterScience

Four Virtual Issues were published in 2008, namely:

- Top Cited Articles 2000-2007 (January)
- Social Capital (February)
- Deliberative Democracy (October)
- Electoral Systems (November)

3.4 Published book reviews

331 reviews were published in Volume 6 of *Political Studies Review* in 2008. This compares to 329 in volume 5 (2007), 343 in volume 4 (2006), 370 in volume 3 (2005), 341 in volume 2 (2004), and 375 in volume 1 (2003).

There has been a noticeable shift over the last few years towards publishing slightly fewer book notes in order to accommodate more of the review articles that are being submitted to PSR.

The status of PSR as a home for reflective review articles and topical symposia is becoming firmly established and as a result the editors are making a formal submission for *Political Studies Review* to be included in the ISI database.

4 OUTCOMES

4.1 Impact of *Political Studies*

The Sheffield team is disappointed that the journal's ranking in the citation index for 2007 has fallen slightly from 0.500 to 0.488, but taking into account the increase in the number of journals published (from 85 to 93) and the small fall in the number of citations (from 44 to 41), it would appear that *Political Studies* is maintaining its position overall.

However, a new development in 2008 was the introduction of *Eigenfactor* metrics and also a 5-year Impact Factor. It is interesting to note that while *Political Studies* is ranked 55 of 93 journals using the traditional 2-year Impact Factor, it is placed 42 of 93 in terms of the 5-year Impact Factor, and 27 of 93 in terms of the *Eigenfactor* score.

Table 12: Citations and ISI ranking for *Political Studies* 2003 - 2006

	Impact Factor	No. of journals	Ranking	Ranking by total citations	5-year Impact Factor ranking	<i>Eigenfactor</i> ranking
2003	0.392	78	28	28		
2004	0.325	79	53	25		
2005	0.575	84	35	26		
2006	0.500	85	40			
2007	0.488	93	55		42	27

A further measure of the journal's impact is the number of individuals signed up via Wiley InterScience 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, with an increase of 6% between 2007 and 2008.

Table 13: Number receiving the *PS* and *PSR* e-Alerting service

	<i>Political Studies</i>				<i>PSR</i>			
	Dec 05	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08	Dec 05	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08
Individuals signed up for TOC e-alerts	1381	1763	2184	2323	1228	1570	1959	2073

4.2 International focus

There was a continued focus on raising the profile of *Political Studies* in the US throughout 2008, for example through such initiatives as the symposium of articles on 'Civic Engagement and Civic Attitudes in Cross-National Perspective' guest edited by Marc Morjé Howard and Dietlind Stolle, which appeared in issue 56 (1).

The journal editors also organised a workshop on 'Dialogue and Innovation in Political Science' in June 2008 which attracted high-profile speakers from both the UK and US. Our thanks to the team at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford for their help in co-hosting this event.

A Special Issue of the journal to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the PSA in 2010 will further develop the ideas arising from Oxford workshop and transatlantic dialogue within and across the profession.