

# ***Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review*** **Annual report for 2009**

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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 2009 we received the following submissions:

Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (new)	281
Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (revised)	83
Submissions of review articles for <i>Political Studies Review</i>	24
<b>Total submissions to both journals</b>	<b>388</b>

The overall figure for new submissions to both journals equates to 305 papers. At the same point in 2008 the equivalent figure was 265; and in 2007 it was 250. The figure for 2009 therefore represents a significant increase on the past two years (up 15% on 2008 and 22% on 2007).

### **1.1 Submissions to *Political Studies***

Looking at *Political Studies* on its own, there were 281 new submissions in 2009, 234 in 2008 and 231 in 2007, so the current figure still represents a substantial increase of 20% compared to the previous two years, and there is every reason to believe that this will be a continuing trend rather than the result of short-term external influences such as RAE 2008.

It is also encouraging to note that the increase in submissions from locations other than the UK and Europe has been sustained, namely: 42% of submissions in 2009, 39% in 2007 and 43% in 2008.

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

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
No. of new papers submitted	231	234	
UK	40%	36%	39%
Europe	21%	21%	19%
North America	20%	24%	22%
Australasia	9%	3%	7%
Asia/Pacific	3%	8%	7%
Rest of World	7%	8%	6%
	100%	100%	100%

## 1.2 Submissions to *Political Studies Review*

2009 saw 24 articles submitted to *Political Studies Review*, which represents a slight fall on the previous year (31 articles in 2008) but is still up on the year before that (19 articles in 2007). Of greater significance is that the general quality of articles submitted has increased, which supports the editorial decision to send papers through the full peer review process.

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

PSR has continued its tradition of commissioning articles around themed symposia, and in 2009 a symposium was commissioned that discussed the global financial crisis of 2007/8. This symposium appeared in the January 2010 issue of the journal (vol. 8 issue 1).

Of the 24 papers submitted in 2009, one was rejected while 11 were accepted, and a further 12 are either currently under review or being revised for resubmission.

The origination of papers submitted to PSR in 2009 in comparison with previous years is shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Origination of new papers submitted to *Political Studies Review***

	2007	2008	2009
No. of papers submitted	19	31	24
UK	74%	55%	67%
Europe		16%	8%
North America	16%	20%	12.5%
Australasia	10%	3%	12.5%
Asia/Pacific		3%	
Rest of World		3%	
	100%	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	2009
113	170	184	199	226	246	258	250	265	288

**Table 4: Total article submissions to *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* by geographical location of lead author, 2003-2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
							POST	PSR
UK	135*	156*	161*	163*	215*	155*	104	16
Europe							50	2
North America	28	41	36	44	64	62	58	3
Asia/Pacific	17	16	18	30	10	8	18	
Australasia	15	11	7	16	31	20	18	3
Rest of World	4	2	4	5	19	20	16	
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>24</b>

\* figures for UK and Europe combined in previous years

## 2 Political Studies PROCESS

### 2.1 Manuscript status

From 1 January to 31 December 2009 we received 281 new submissions and 83 revised papers, decisions on which were taken as shown in the table below (figures for the same period in 2008 in brackets). The number of articles still in progress relates mainly to those papers submitted in November and December 2009.

**Table 5: Status of new and revised submissions to *Political Studies* in 2009**

	New submissions 2009			Revised submissions 2009			Total 2009		
Not processed (e.g. double submissions)	17	6%	(15)	0	0%	(0)	17	5%	(15)
Decision - Reject	153	54%	(139)	3	4%	(8)	156	43%	(147)
Decision - Revise & Resubmit	47	17%	(32)	10	12%	(5)	57	15%	(37)
Decision - Minor Revision	2	1%	(4)	23	27%	(26)	25	7%	(30)
Decision - Accept	7	3%	(6)	43	52%	(40)	50	14%	(46)
In Progress	55	19%	(38)	4	5%	(9)	59	16%	(47)
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(234)</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(88)</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(322)</b>

### 2.2 Response times in 2009

Of the 364 new and revised on-line submissions to *Political Studies*, we have made decisions on 288 or 80% over the course of the year (59 submissions still in progress and 17 submissions unsuitable for processing). Of the decisions made, 209 were on new submissions and 79 on revised papers.

Of the 209 new on-line submissions with decisions, ALL decisions were made in 3 months or less, in line with our target (compared to 80% in 2006, 93% in 2007 and 94% in 2008).

Nearly two thirds of decisions (62%) were completed within one month, which is a significant increase on last year, where two thirds of decisions (68%) were taken within two or three months.

**Table 6: Time taken to decision for new submissions to *Political Studies* in 2009 (2008 in brackets)**

Months	Number of new submissions where decisions were made		%	
1	129	(47)	62	(26)
2	70	(60)	33	(33)
3	10	(63)	5	(35)
4	0	(11)		(6)
5	0	(0)		(0)

The time to decision for revised manuscripts (including all iterations) in 2009 was as follows: 44 (53%) within one month; 18 (22%) within two months; and 16 (19%) within three months.

One revised paper took longer than the norm to reach a decision, but this was because the previous complement of reviewers all declined to re-review, and therefore a new set of reviewers who were willing to take account of previous comment needed to be confirmed. This situation highlights the continuing problem of recruiting sufficient suitable reviewers for manuscripts, which is an increasingly serious issue for all journal managers.

### 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.

In 2009 54% of **new** submissions to *Political Studies* were rejected and 18% sent for revision. Of all **new and revised** submissions, 14% were accepted for publication.

The table below shows decision rates on articles submitted between 2007 and 2009 (and includes revised submissions).

**Table 7: Acceptance/rejection rates for total article submissions to *Political Studies* 2007 – 2009**

Status	2007		2008		2009	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In Progress	26	8	47	15	59	17
Decision - Accept	57	18	46	14	50	14
Decision - Minor revision	42	13	30	9	25	7
Decision - Revise and Resubmit	52	16	37	11	57	17
Decision – Reject	143	45	162	51	156	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>347*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Does not include articles that were not processed due to double submissions

### 2.4 Acceptance to publication

One of the difficulties we are experiencing as a result of our success in attracting article submissions is that our lead times for publication in print are often 16 months or more.

We have resolved this problem to a great extent by moving to a regular system of online publication called 'Early View', whereby the publication process is initiated within 4-6 months of acceptance. Consequently, most articles accepted by *Political Studies* are now publicly available in their final version within just 6 to 9 months of acceptance. All Early View articles can be accessed via the publisher's website at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120121142/issue>.

The following table shows how long it took from acceptance to print publication for those articles that appeared in Volume 57 of *Political Studies*.

**Table 8: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published in *Political Studies* during 2009**

Months	No. of articles
1 - 3	1
4 – 6	
7 – 9	1
10 – 12	3
13 – 15	6
16 – 18	7
19 – 21	17
22 - 24	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

## 3 OUTPUTS

### 3.1 Published articles

In 2008 we published 44 articles in *Political Studies* and 21 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (PSR).

This compares to 47 articles in *Political Studies* and 19 in *PSR* in 2008; 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

As already indicated above, all articles accepted for publication in *Political Studies* are published as quickly as possible online via the Early View system, and in January 2009 we moved to Early View publication for articles published in *PSR* as well.

Once published online, articles can then be drawn into print publication at a later stage when the time comes, and the Early View system has thus greatly improved issue management for both publications. All issues of both journals can be accessed online via the Wiley Interscience site at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118510540/home> (for *Political Studies*) and <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118536994/home> (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 (<http://www.wiley.com/bw/vi.asp?ref=0032-3217>).

Two new Virtual Issues were added to the series in 2009, which now comprises:

- 'Harrison Prize Winners' (June 2009)
- 'Multiculturalism' (April 2009) – edited by Katharine Adeney
- 'Electoral Systems' (November 2008) – edited by Sean Carey
- 'Deliberative Democracy' (October 2008) – edited by Matthew Festenstein
- 'Social Capital' (February 2008) – edited by Martin Smith
- 'Top Cited Articles 2000-2007' (January 2008)

### 3.4 Published book reviews

340 reviews were published in Volume 7 of *Political Studies Review* in 2009. This compares to 331 in volume 6 (2008); 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).

Anybody who would like to see which books are available for review at any time can find the list at: <http://www.politicalstudiesreview.org/booksavailable.asp>

It should be noted that the administration of the book review process places heavy demands on the Reviews Coordinator, who is responsible for logging all books received from the different publishers onto the database and listing them online, responding to enquiries from potential reviewers and despatching books as speedily as possible, logging all completed reviews, chasing up tardy reviewers, and coordinating with the publisher over the list of reviews to be published. This role is currently filled by Dawn King in the Sheffield office and the editors would like to record their thanks and appreciation for Dawn's hard work and dedication in ensuring that all these tasks are performed to the highest standard at all times.

## 4 OUTCOMES

### 4.1 Impact of *Political Studies*

The data in the table below show a 28.1% increase on the 2007 impact factor, from 0.488 to 0.625. This is as a result of a slight drop in the number of articles published (4 less over the two-year period), coupled with an increase in the number of cites (9 more). However, there has been little change in the ranking of *Political Studies*, from 53 to 51, despite this improvement in Impact Factor. This is because there has been an increase in the number of journals included within the Political Sciences category on ISI, from 93 in 2007 to 99 in 2008.

**Table 9: Citations and ISI ranking for *Political Studies* 2003 - 2008**

	Impact Factor	No. of journals	Ranking	Ranking by total citations	5-year Impact Factor ranking	<i>Eigenfactor</i>
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	0.00302
2008	0.625*	99	51		44	0.00288

\*Please note that official 2008 impact factors will not be released by ISI until June/July 2010.

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 past two years, although the number now seems to be levelling out, with only a slight increase on 2008 in 2009, as shown below:

**Table 10: Number receiving the *Political Studies* and *PSR* e-Alerting service**

	<i>Political Studies</i>				<i>Political Studies Review</i>			
	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08	Dec 09	Dec 06	Dec 07	Dec 08	Dec 09
Individuals signed up for TOC e-alerts	1763	2184	2323	2377	1570	1959	2073	2095

### 4.2 PSA Diamond Jubilee events

In celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Political Studies Association the editors have organised a special issue of *Political Studies* (vol. 58 issue 2) around the theme of 'Dialogue and Innovation in Political Science', with contributions from Patrick Dunleavy, Wyn Grant, Gerry Stoker, Albert Weale and Jim Johnson, among others.

There will also be a Roundtable on this topic at this year's Annual conference in Edinburgh, chaired by Martin Smith.

On 24 September 2010 there will be a *Political Studies* workshop in Sheffield on the theme of 'Risk, Perceptions of Risk and Transborder Infectious Diseases: Challenges for Global Health Governance'. The aim of the workshop is to examine the current state of global health governance in relation to disease monitoring and control, and propose policy-relevant analysis of how these health priorities might be better governed at the global level. There will be space for up to 50 participants and anybody interested in reserving a place should contact Rene Bailey ([r.bailey@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.bailey@sheffield.ac.uk)) as soon as possible.