

Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review

Annual report for 2010

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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 2010 we received the following submissions:

Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (new)	273
Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (revised)	101
Submissions of review articles for <i>Political Studies Review</i>	22
Total submissions to both journals	396

1.1 Submissions to *Political Studies*

In 2010 there were 273 new submissions, compared to 281 in 2009, 234 in 2008 and 231 in 2007. Although there appears to have been a slight fall in submissions in 2010 compared to 2009, this difference is removed when the number of incorrect (double) submissions is taken into account and thus the two years together represent a substantial increase of 20% compared to the two years prior to that. Given the impact of the forthcoming REF, there is every reason to believe that the number of submissions in 2011 and 2012 will again rise rather than fall.

With regard to origin of papers submitted, there is currently great consistency across time, with approximately 60% of submissions from the UK and Europe and approximately 40% from the rest of the world, especially the USA.

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of new papers submitted	252	234	281	273
UK	40%	36%	39%	39%
Europe	21%	21%	19%	20%
North America	20%	24%	22%	19%
Australasia	9%	3%	7%	7%
Asia/Pacific	3%	8%	7%	9%
Rest of World	7%	8%	6%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

1.2 Submissions to *Political Studies Review*

2010 saw 22 articles submitted to *Political Studies Review*, compared with 24 in 2009, 31 in 2008 and 19 in 2007. Of greater significance is that the general quality of articles submitted has increased, and that all papers are automatically peer reviewed in line with practice for *Political Studies*.

Of the 22 papers submitted in 2010, 2 were rejected and 17 accepted, while a further 3 are either under review or being revised for resubmission.

The origination of papers submitted to PSR in 2010 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	2010
No. of papers submitted	19	31	24	22
UK	74%	55%	67%	64%
Europe		16%	8%	9%
North America	16%	20%	13%	4.5%
Australasia	10%	3%	12%	18%
Asia/Pacific		3%		4.5%
Rest of World		3%		
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Two recent developments should enhance the status of PSR and encourage a greater number of submissions in future. The first to note is that the Sheffield editors' application for *Political Studies Review* to be included in the annual citations index has been successful, and a first ranking is expected in July 2011. Secondly, it has been agreed with the PSA and Wiley-Blackwell to set up an electronic editorial system for *Political Studies Review*, so that articles can be submitted and reviewed online in the same fashion as with *Political Studies*.

PSR will also continue its tradition of commissioning articles around themed symposia, such as the themed section on the repercussions of the global financial crisis which appeared in January 2010 and was widely promoted. Two of the journal's top ten articles stemmed from this special section, and there were 1,888 online accesses to the symposium throughout the year. We expect a similar level of interest to be generated by the forthcoming symposium in 2011, which considers the new political landscape following the General Election of 2010.

Table 3: Total article submissions to *Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* by geographical location of lead author, 2003-2010

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
								POST	PSR
UK	135*	156*	161*	163*	215*	155*	120	106	14
Europe							52	52	2
North America	28	41	36	44	64	62	61	60	1
Asia/Pacific	17	16	18	30	10	8	18	19	4
Australasia	15	11	7	16	31	20	21	19	1
Rest of World	4	2	4	5	19	20	16	17	0
Total	199	226	246	258	250	265	288	273	22

* figures for UK and Europe combined in previous years

2 Political Studies PROCESS

2.1 Manuscript status

From 1 January to 31 December 2010 we received 273 new submissions and 101 revised papers (often several iterations), decisions on which were taken as follows (figures for the same period in 2009 in brackets):

Table 4: Status of new and revised submissions to *Political Studies* in 2009

	New submissions 2010			Revised submissions 2010			Total 2010		
Not processed (e.g. double submissions)	7	3%	(17)	0	0%	(0)	7	2%	(17)
Decision - Reject	167	61%	(153)	7	6%	(3)	174	46%	(156)
Decision - Revise & Resubmit	42	15%	(47)	4	4%	(10)	46	12%	(57)
Decision - Minor Revision	5	2%	(2)	31	27%	(23)	36	9%	(25)
Decision - Accept	1	0%	(7)	48	52%	(43)	49	13%	(50)
In Progress	51	19%	(55)	11	5%	(4)	69	18%	(59)
Total	273	100%	(281)	101	100%	(83)	374	100%	(364)

Note: The higher ratio of accept/minor revision to reject for revised manuscripts is due to the fact that these papers have already been through an initial process of peer review and triage.

2.2 Response times in 2010

Of the 374 new and revised submissions to *Political Studies*, decisions were made on 305 or 81% over the course of the year (up from 80% in 2009). Of these decisions, 215 were on new submissions and 90 on revised papers.

Of the 215 new submissions with decisions, 96% of decisions were reached in 3 months or less (compared to 80% in 2006, 93% in 2007 and 94% in 2008). This is well in line with our target, although a slight drop against our achievement in 2009, where all decisions were reached within the target period. The cause of this drop (9 manuscripts requiring more than 90 days) is entirely due to the increasing problem of reviewers withdrawing from the process at the time when their report is due, thus necessitating a search for a new reviewer and consequent additional wait for a report.

Table 5: Time taken to decision for new submissions to *Political Studies* in 2010 (2009 in brackets)

Months	Number of new submissions where decisions were made		%	
1	68	(129)	32	(62)
2	77	(70)	36	(33)
3	61	(10)	28	(5)
4	6	(0)	3	(0)
5	3	(0)	1	(0)

The time to decision for revised manuscripts (including all iterations) in 2010 was as follows: 60 (59%) within one month; 30 (30%) within two months; 10 (10%) within three months; and 1 (1%) within 4 months.

2.3 Acceptance/rejection rates

In 2010, 61% of **new** submissions to *Political Studies* were rejected and 17% sent for revision. Of all **new and revised** submissions, 13% were eventually 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 eventually 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 eventually accepted for publication.

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

Table 6: Acceptance/rejection rates for total article submissions to *Political Studies* 2007 – 2009 including revisions (which have a lower overall rejection rate)

Status	2008		2009		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In Progress	47	15	59	17	69	18
Decision - Accept	46	14	50	14	49	13
Decision - Minor revision	30	9	25	7	36	9
Decision - Revise and Resubmit	37	11	57	17	46	12
Decision – Reject	162	51	156	45	181	48
TOTAL	322	100	347*	100	367	100

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 6 months of acceptance. Consequently, most articles accepted by *Political Studies* are now publicly available in their final version within just 9 months of acceptance. All Early View articles can be accessed via the publisher's website at: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-9248/earlyview](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-9248/earlyview)

The table below shows how long it took from acceptance to print publication for those articles that appeared in Volume 58 of *Political Studies* (2010), and for purposes of comparison, for articles that appeared in Volume 59 (2009).

Table 7: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published in *Political Studies* during 2009 and 2010

2009		2010	
Months	No. of articles	Months	No. of articles
1 - 3	1	1 - 3	2
4 - 6	0	4 - 6	4
7 - 9	1	7 - 9	4
10 - 12	3	10 - 12	0
13 - 15	6	13 - 15	6
16 - 18	7	16 - 18	10
19 - 21	17	19 - 21	22
22 - 24	9	22 - 24	6
Total	44	Total	54

3 OUTPUTS

3.1 Published articles

In 2010 we published 54 articles in *Political Studies* and 18 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (PSR).

This compares to 44 articles in *Political Studies* and 21 in PSR in 2009; 47 in *Political Studies* and 19 in PSR in 2008; and 42 articles in *Political Studies* and 17 in PSR in 2007.

According to data from the publisher, there were 130,565 accesses to the current content of *Political Studies* in 2010 making it amongst the most accessed political science journals worldwide. The top three articles accessed in *Political Studies* received phenomenally high numbers of accesses, all of which were featured in the 60th anniversary Virtual Issue ('PSA Members' Top Voted Articles, published in August 2010; see below).

A Special Issue of *Political Studies* on 'Dialogue and Innovation in Contemporary Political Science' was published in February 2010 and articles from this issue were downloaded 7,141 times throughout 2010, making it the most popular issue of *Political Studies* for the year.

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. This is also the case 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 Online Library (<http://www.wiley.com/bw/vi.asp?ref=0032-3217>).

Two new Virtual Issues were added to the series in 2010, one of these highlighting the results of a PSA-wide poll of all members to select the most significant articles published in the journal since its launch in 1953.

The full series of Virtual Issues now comprises:

- 'The History and Historiography of *Political Studies* (December 2010), edited by Elizabeth Meehan
- 'PSA Members' Top Voted Articles' (August 2010)
- '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

344 reviews were published in Volume 8 of *Political Studies Review* in 2010. This compares to 340 in volume 7 (2009); 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 significant increase on the 2008 impact factor for *Political Studies*, from 0.625 to 0.855. In terms of ranking, the journal moved up 11 places within the political science category, from 51 to 40, and this despite the addition of 14 more journals to the category.

The article 'When does Diversity Erode Trust' by Stolle, Soroka and Johnson (2008) was cited 8 times in 2010, and is the top-cited paper contributing to the 2010 Impact Factor (to be released in June 2011).

Table 8: Citations and ISI ranking for *Political Studies* 2006 - 2009

	Impact Factor	No. of journals	Ranking	No. articles published	5-year Impact Factor	<i>Eigenfactor</i>
2009	0.855	112	40	44	0.595	748
2008	0.625	99	51	41	0.62	505
2007	0.488	93	55	42		
2006	0.500	85	40	42		

4.2 Political Studies Workshop – Global Health Governance

In September 2010 the journal hosted a stimulating Workshop on 'Global Health Governance' in Sheffield, with some excellent papers which are now being prepared for inclusion in a Special Issue to be published at the end of 2011. Garrett Brown at Sheffield and Sophie Harman at City University co-organised the workshop and will guest edit the issue.

5 JOURNAL TRANSFER TO NOTTINGHAM

In November 2010 teams were interviewed by the PSA with a view to taking over the editorship of *Political Studies* from 1 July 2011, and the team from Nottingham led by Chris Pierson proved successful. The outgoing Sheffield team would like to congratulate Chris and his colleagues on the high standard of their application and to wish them every success in taking the journal forward to new heights.