

# ***Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review*** **Annual report for 2011**

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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 2011 we received the following submissions:

Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (new)	364
Submissions for <i>Political Studies</i> (revised)	118
Submissions of review articles for <i>Political Studies Review</i>	15
<b>Total submissions to both journals</b>	<b>497</b>

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

In 2011 there were 364 new submissions, compared to 273 in 2010, 281 in 2009, 234 in 2008 and 231 in 2007. This is a phenomenal throughput of submissions, representing one submission per day throughout the year and an increase of 33% on the previous year and 55% on earlier years. Given the impact of the forthcoming REF, there is every reason to believe that the number of submissions in 2012 will rise even further, and the fact that 85 submissions had been received by 16 March (76 days into the year) seems to confirm this. While the team will continue to work as hard as ever to process these submissions in a timely fashion, it should come as no surprise if there is a slight deterioration in meeting our target of reaching a decision on all manuscripts within 3 months of submission.

**Table 1: New submissions to *Political Studies* 2007–2011 showing annual percentage change**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
No. of new papers submitted	252	234	281	273	364
Increase on previous year		-7.1%	20.0%	-2.8%	33.3

With regard to the origin of papers submitted, there is currently great consistency across time, with 60% of submissions in 2011 from the UK and Europe and 21% from North America (see Table 2 below).

**Table 2: Origination of new papers to *Political Studies* 2007-2011**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of new papers submitted	252	234	281	273	364
UK	40%	36%	39%	39%	127 35%
Europe	21%	21%	19%	20%	91 25%
North America	20%	24%	22%	19%	77 21%
Australasia	9%	3%	7%	7%	19 5%
Asia/Pacific	3%	8%	7%	9%	24 7%
Rest of World	7%	8%	6%	6%	26 7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## 1.2 Submissions to *Political Studies Review*

2011 saw 15 articles submitted to *Political Studies Review*, compared with 22 in 2010, 24 in 2009, 31 in 2008 and 19 in 2007. Although the number of new submissions is lower than in previous years, the general quality of articles submitted is very encouraging and signifies that authors now regard PSR as a suitable home for good quality survey articles of a set of related books or a sub-field within the discipline. Since the introduction of the new online editorial system for PSR in July 2011 it has been possible to handle the peer review process with greater efficiency and professionalism, and the new editorial team at Nottingham is taking a very pro-active approach to commissioning new articles for the journal.

Of the 15 papers submitted in 2011, 3 were rejected and 9 accepted, while a further 3 are either under review or being revised for resubmission.

The origination of papers submitted to PSR in 2011 in comparison with previous years is shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Origination of new papers submitted to *Political Studies Review***

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of papers submitted	19	31	24	22	15
UK	74%	55%	67%	64%	40%
Europe		16%	8%	9%	33%
North America	16%	20%	13%	4.5%	13%
Australasia	10%	3%	12%	18%	7%
Asia/Pacific		3%		4.5%	7%
Rest of World		3%			
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The editors are very pleased that *Political Studies Review* is now included in the Thomson Reuters citations index and especially that it has come in with an impact factor of 0.767 (ranked 62 out of 139 journals), which is very respectable for a first Impact Factor.

PSR will also continue its tradition of commissioning articles around themed symposia, such as the symposium on the new political landscape following the General Election of 2010 (May 2011) and the discussion of David Estlund's book *Democratic Authority* (January 2012). A symposium on the 2012 London Olympics/Paralympics is being edited by Dr Miwa Hirono to appear in the January issue of 2013, offering perspectives from across the fields of political science, sociology and history.

As a new initiative the PSR board will also be looking to publish articles which examine the complete *oeuvre* of significant figures in the field of political science, and also articles on current research agendas within the sub-fields of the discipline.

## 2 Political Studies PROCESS

### 2.1 Manuscript status

From 1 January to 31 December 2011 we received 364 new submissions and 118 revised papers (often several iterations), decisions on which were taken as follows (figures for the same period in 2010 in brackets):

**Table 4: Status of new and revised submissions to *Political Studies* in 2011**

	New submissions 2011			Revised submissions 2011			Total 2011		
Not processed (e.g. double submissions)	23	6%	(7)	0	0%	(0)	23	5%	(7)
Decision - Reject	184	51%	(167)	11	9%	(7)	195	40%	(174)
Decision - Revise & Resubmit	70	19%	(42)	13	11%	(4)	83	17%	(46)
Decision - Minor Revision	7	2%	(5)	23	20%	(31)	30	6%	(36)
Decision - Accept	0	0%	(1)	61	52%	(48)	61	13%	(49)
In Progress (at year end)	80	22%	(51)	10	8%	(11)	90	19%	(69)
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(273)</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(101)</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(374)</b>

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 2011

Of the 482 new and revised submissions to *Political Studies*, decisions were made on 392 or 81% over the course of the year (which is exactly in line with previous decision rates of 81% in 2010 and 80% in 2009). Of these decisions, 284 were on new submissions and 108 on revised papers.

Of the 284 new submissions with decisions, 84% of decisions were reached in 3 months or less (compared to 96% in 2010, 94% in 2008, 93% in 2007 and 80% in 2006). This represents a drop on our previous response times, but can be explained both by the impact of moving the editorial base between universities with the consequent need for a new team to learn how to use the online editorial system in an effective and timely fashion, and by the overall increase in the number of submissions to the journal, particularly in the second half of the year during the transition period.

**Table 5: Time taken to decision for new submissions to *Political Studies* in 2011 (2010 in brackets)**

Months	Number of new submissions where decisions were made		%	
1	65	(68)	24	(32)
2	69	(77)	26	(36)
3	89	(61)	34	(28)
4	35	(6)	13	(3)
5	8	(3)	3	(1)

The time to decision for revised manuscripts (including all iterations) in 2011 was as follows: 49 papers (45%) within one month; 49 papers (45%) within two months; 9 papers (8%) within three months; and 2 papers (2%) within 4 months.

### 2.3 Acceptance/rejection rates

In 2011, 51% of **new** submissions to *Political Studies* were rejected and 21% sent for revision. Of all **new and revised** submissions, 13% were eventually accepted for publication.

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* 2009 – 2011 including revisions (which have a lower overall rejection rate)**

Status	2009		2010		2011	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In Progress (at year end)	59	17	69	18	90	19
Decision - Accept	50	14	49	13	61	13
Decision - Minor revision	25	7	36	9	30	6
Decision - Revise and Resubmit	57	17	46	12	83	17
Decision – Reject	156	45	181	48	218	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>100</b>

### 2.4 Acceptance to publication

Once accepted articles are prepared for online publication in the first instance, normally 6 months after the date of acceptance (the reason for this time lag is that *Political Studies* already has a significant copybank of articles which are also in the process of moving through to publication after they have been accepted). 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 60 of *Political Studies* (2011), and for purposes of comparison, for articles that appeared in Volume 59 (2010).

**Table 7: Time from acceptance to publication for articles published in *Political Studies* in 2009, 2010 and 2011**

	2009	2010	2011
Months	No. of articles	No. of articles	No. of articles
1 - 3	1	2	0
4 - 6	0	4	4
7 - 9	1	4	2
10 - 12	3	0	2
13 - 15	6	6	11
16 - 18	7	10	20
19 - 21	17	22	12
22 - 24	9	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>

### 3 OUTPUTS

#### 3.1 Published articles

In 2011 we published 55 articles in *Political Studies* and 17 review articles in *Political Studies Review* (PSR).

This compares to 54 articles in *Political Studies* and 18 in PSR in 2010; 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.

#### 3.2 Published book reviews

347 reviews were published in Volume 9 of *Political Studies Review* in 2011. This compares to 344 in volume 8 (2010); 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>

Since January 2012 it has also been possible to search for individual book reviews online, which is a significant improvement on the previous publication process, whereby book reviews could only be downloaded from within the relevant book review section of the journal.

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 Alexandra Windsor in the Nottingham office and the editors would like to record their thanks and appreciation for her 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 that *Political Studies*' Impact Factor for 2010 has again risen, notwithstanding the increase in the number of journals in the ranking, from 112 in 2009 to 139 in 2010. The journal has moved up a further 6 places within the political science category, from 40 to 34.

**Table 8a: Thomson Reuters ranking for *Political Studies* 2006 - 2010**

	Impact Factor	No. of journals	Ranking	No. articles published	5-year Impact Factor	EigenFactor
2010	1.106	139	34	54	1.264	0.00308
2009	0.855	112	40	44	1.028	0.00262
2008	0.625	99	51	41		
2007	0.488	93	55	42		
2006	0.500	85	40	42		

The editors are very pleased that *Political Studies Review* is now included in the Thomson Reuters citations index and especially that it has come in with an impact factor of 0.767 (ranked 62 out of 139 journals), which is very respectable for a first Impact Factor.

**Table 8b: Thomson Reuters ranking for *Political Studies Review***

	Impact Factor	No. of journals	Ranking	No. articles published	5-year Impact Factor	EigenFactor
2010	0.767	139	62	18	n/a	0.00062

## 5 JOURNAL TRANSFER TO NOTTINGHAM

A great deal of the work that has led to the improvement in the journal's Impact Factor noted above was of course carried out by the editorial team at the University of Sheffield, led by Professor Martin Smith, and the current editors would like to record their thanks to everybody on the editorial board at Sheffield for their excellent stewardship of both journals.

The formal point of transfer was July 2011 but the Nottingham team – led by Professor Chris Pierson - were involved in key editorial decisions from the very start of the year. The transfer from Sheffield to Nottingham coincided with an unprecedented increase in the number of submissions to *Political Studies* (see Table 1) and the new team is rising to the challenge of maintaining the high standards previously set.

2011 was therefore a year of great change for *Political Studies* and PSR, the most significant of which are detailed below.

### 5.1 Cover redesign and journal layout

In order to mark the new editorship at Nottingham, the team has worked with the publishers to design a completely fresh image for the journals. The new journal design appears for the first time

on the covers of volume 60 for *Political Studies* and volume 10 for *Political Studies Review*. The covers will change image for each of the 4 (3) issues in the year, and colour for each of the 6 years of Nottingham's editorship.

A further change that also comes into effect with the new volumes in 2012 is that the page layout has been amended to ensure that the space is used as effectively as possible within the journal, so that more articles can be included in a single issue (thus reducing the tail of articles in the copybank waiting to be published in print).

## **5.2 Faster transition from acceptance to online publication**

Conscious of authors' desire to have their articles published as soon as possible after Acceptance – especially in 2012 and 2013 with an eye on the forthcoming REF – the production team has increased the speed with which accepted articles move from the copybank toward online publication by 20%. This does not affect the speed with which they will appear in print, but it does mean that all such articles have a DOI reference and are fully available in the public domain.

## **5.3 Expanded editorial board**

Reaching decisions speedily of course depends on a smoothly-flowing process from manuscript submission to editorial consideration to invitations to reviewers. Given the substantial increase in the number of submissions already noted above, it is particularly important to maintain a speedy 'throughput' of manuscripts. In response, the editorial board has been expanded to include 13 specialist editors alongside the core team of 4.

## **5.4 Dedicated team for *Political Studies Review***

The expansion of the editorial board has also made it possible to have a parallel team responsible for managing *Political Studies Review*, and this means that there will be a great deal more input into commissioning articles and symposia for PSR over the next few years. Alongside the regular articles and book reviews, there will also be space for a 'Research Agenda' section and appraisals of the work of significant figures within the world of political science.