



# Political Studies Association

## New editorial team for *POLITICS* Call for Applications

*POLITICS* is a flagship journal of the Political Studies Association and exists to publish timely, original research of interest both to the Association's members and wider academic and non-academic audiences. The journal publishes cutting-edge peer-reviewed analysis in politics and international studies four times per year in hard copy, alongside maintaining a blog and strong social media presence. The ethos of *POLITICS* is the dissemination of timely, research-led reflections on the state of the art, the state of the world and the state of disciplinary pedagogy that make significant and original contributions to the disciplines of political and international studies, along with a firm commitment to the principles of pluralism and interdisciplinarity.

The current editorial team, led by Martin Coward at the University of Manchester and Kyle Grayson at Newcastle University, will finish at the end of August 2018 and **applications are now invited** for the next editorial team contract. The next editorial team will be appointed for three years in the first instance, but this could be extended to six years subject to an interim review.

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In recent years the PSA has undertaken a far-reaching period of reform, including the publication of a new ten-year strategic plan. The PSA is one of the leading British learned societies within the social sciences with an international reputation for supporting its members and developing the discipline. The strategic plan was built around the foundations of *ambition, visibility and professionalism* - these priorities reflect the current climate of a rapidly changing publishing context and the challenges and opportunities this presents. This is a rare opportunity to lead one of the discipline's foremost journals at an exciting and challenging time for academic publishing. Applications must therefore not only demonstrate a clear grasp of this changing publishing context but must also be able to chart a clear and coherent strategy for *POLITICS* that aims to strengthen significantly its impact factor and overall position in the publishing field.

We are therefore asking applicants to present a distinctive strategic statement for the journal and a set of deliverable ambitions that will achieve those aims. Applications should be up to a maximum of four pages. This statement should contain some consideration of the issues listed below but the PSA selection panel will also be looking for fresh ideas and a willingness to take targeted risks and to launch new initiatives. The final hard copy of the printed journal is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the journal's work and activities. Indeed, receiving world-class manuscripts that represent the state-of-the-art in terms of sub-disciplinary profiles rarely happens by accident but is the result of innovative marketing

and several years of nurturing author-editor relationships. Editorial teams must take the lead in journal promotion, particularly in social media and impact related activities. The statement should contain a budget including any resource needs for administrative assistance, social media officers, travel, etc as well as any resources which may be provided by the host institution.

Applicants are invited to consider the following issues in their applications:

- Improving the journal's impact factor;
- Further internationalising the journal and its global profile in terms of author and readership base;
- Increasing the number of article submissions and publications from around the world, particularly outside of the Euro-Atlantic corridor;
- Increasing downloads of journal articles in all geographic territories;
- Raising the profile of the journal through social media and other marketing tools and measures, including a dedicated social media manager on the editorial team;
- Identifying and exploiting the synergies between the PSA's journals and with the wider activities of the PSA;
- Applications should detail plans for managing the day-to-day business of the journal, including the associated online and social media channels (e.g. [PSA web pages](#), [politicsblog.ac.uk](#) and [@JournalPolitics](#))
- How a new editorial team will play an active role in implementing the PSA's commitment to Equality and Diversity - both within the composition of the editorial team and the contents of the journal itself. Applicants are encouraged to set ambitious targets for diversity and implement a plan to achieve these targets without compromising quality.

Applicants may find it useful to include a SWOT analysis showing what they consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the journal, potential threats to its international reputation and standing and any opportunities they identify to further improve the quality and standing of the journal.

Applicants should bear in mind that going forward the PSA is keen to take greater advantage of the potential for synergies between its journals and its wider activities, while at all times observing the editorial independence of its journals.

The journal will receive appropriate financial support which reflects the international standing of the journal and the ambitions that the PSA has for it. Editorial administrative support will be provided through the SAGE Peer Review Management team in London. In addition, the journal will be allocated an annual budget to cover editorial expenses and marketing costs. It would be helpful to know what support the editorial team's host department(s) might offer in terms of additional resources, especially considering the importance of social media and other marketing activities. The PSA recognises the effort of editorial teams and has made a commitment to paying a small stipend for editors. This will be negotiated with the host institution but could be in the form of a direct payment or a payment into a university hosted research account.

The editorial team will be contracted to attend PSA publications subcommittee meetings and to attend the PSA Annual Conference and to organize one panel session.

Applications should initially be sent to Rosie Inman, PSA Development Officer ([Rosie.Inman@psa.ac.uk](mailto:Rosie.Inman@psa.ac.uk)), and should include a proposal (max. four pages) and CVs for members of the team. **The closing date for applications is 20 April 2018.** We anticipate conducting interviews in early May with a view to making the appointment as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicants will take over from the current editorial team on 1 September 2018.

The current editorial team are very happy to answer questions by email ([politicsjournal@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:politicsjournal@ncl.ac.uk)) or to meet with potential applicants. They will be available in person at the PSA Annual Conference in Cardiff on 26-28 March and the ISA Annual Convention in San Francisco on 4-7 April. The PSA Chair, Prof. Angelia Wilson, will be chairing the selection panel and also welcomes any questions by email or at the PSA Annual Conference.

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#### Notes.

1. The Association requires a quarterly financial report and a biannual journal report from the editorial team. A journal editor is required to attend and report to two meetings of the PSA's Publications sub-committee each year and to attend the PSA Annual Conference. Occasionally, editors may be asked to attend PSA Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.
2. The PSA encourages bids from teams that include academics based in more than one country, providing the team has the support of one relevant university department based in the UK. Every member of the team should have the full support of their department and the host department should have the full support of the university.