NEW EDITORIAL TEAM FOR POLITICAL STUDIES REVIEW
Call for Applications

Political Studies Review, the PSA’s innovative ‘journal of review’, provides an important forum for wide-ranging review and debate within political science and international relations, both in the UK and internationally. It publishes commissioned symposia, review articles and research papers, as well as providing what is probably the world’s most comprehensive and timely collection of book reviews. Until now Political Studies Review has been edited alongside Political Studies but the PSA’s trustees and the journal’s publisher, Sage, think that it is now ready to emerge very much as a distinctive and self-standing academic journal within the PSA’s broader stable of journals. The current editorial team, led by Mark Wenman at the University of Birmingham and Chris Pierson and Cees van der Eijk at the University of Nottingham, will finish at the end of June 2017 and applications are now invited from academic teams based in the UK or overseas who would like to be considered to be the first editors to lead Political Studies Review in this new and exciting phase as a fully-fledged and world-class journal. The next editorial team will be appointed for three years in the first instance, but this could be extended to six years subject to a mid-term review.

Over the last two years the Political Studies Association has been undertaking a far-reaching reform agenda that has been founded on the principles of ambition, visibility and professionalism. The culmination of this reform agenda will come in April 2017 with the publication of a ten-year strategic plan that seeks to embed and develop these principles across all elements of the PSA’s activities. It is therefore an exciting time to lead one of the discipline’s foremost journals and applicants are invited to consider the principles of ambition, visibility and professionalism in their applications. These strategic priorities are a reflection of a rapidly changing publishing context and the challenges and opportunities this presents. 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 Political Studies Review that identifies a significant and distinctive intellectual space.

Applicants are therefore encouraged to present a distinctive strategic statement for Political Studies Review and a set of deliverable objectives that will achieve those aims. These statements should contain some consideration of the issues listed below but the PSA Executive 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 generally the result of several years of nurturing author-editor relationships. In addition, editors must take the lead in journal promotion, particularly in social media and impact related activities.

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

- How the transition from subsidiary journal to self-standing and distinctive journal in its own right should be undertaken, planned and delivered.
- Further internationalising the journal and its global profile in terms of author and readership base;
- Increasing the capacity of the journal in terms of its editorial team and internal governance, including reducing the lead time from submission to publication;
- Improving the journal’s impact factor;
- Increasing the number of article submissions from around the world;
- Increasing downloads of journal articles in all geographic territories;
• Raising the profile of the journal through social media and other marketing tools and measures;
• Identifying and exploiting the synergies between the PSA’s journals and also with the wider activities of the PSA;
• Applications should detail plans for managing the day-to-day business of the journal, including the associated web pages on the PSA website; and
• How a new editorial team might play an active role as one element in the PSA’s new Equality and Diversity agenda.

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 Publications Sub-Committee is currently chaired by Prof. Matthew Flinders, Chair of the PSA, and informal enquiries can be sent to m.flinders@sheffield.ac.uk. Potential applicants are also welcome to seek further information from the current lead editor, Mark Wenman (m.wenman@bham.ac.uk).

Applications should initially be sent to Helena Djurkovic, the Chief Executive Officer (helena.djurkovic@psa.ac.uk), and to Matt Flinders, Chair of the PSA and Chair of the interview panel. These should include a proposal and CVs for members of the team. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2016. It is hoped to conduct interviews in late November/early December and make the appointment before the end of the year.

Notes.

1. The Association expects a (brief) quarterly report and an annual report from the editorial team. A representative is expected to attend and report to two meetings of the trustees and publishers each year and occasionally to PSA executive meetings and the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
2. Although individuals may apply to become editor it would be expected that they would have the full support of their department and be able to specify others who would be part of the editorial team.
3. The PSA is very happy to consider bids from teams that include academics based in more than one country as long as they carry the support of at least one university department.
4. Traditionally the team with responsibility for Political Studies Review has also edited Political Studies but the PSA has decided, given the two journals are very different in character and purpose, to put out two separate calls. However, the PSA is happy to consider bids to edit both journals but in such cases will require different lead editors.
5. The Publications Sub-Committee of the PSA will evaluate applications, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the Executive committee.