Style guide

For details of scope, word length and submission procedures, please see either ‘Submit an article to Political Studies’ or ‘Submit an article to Political Studies Review’.

Spelling

We are happy to use either UK or US spelling so long as spelling is consistent throughout an article.

Capitalisation

Please use capital letters sparingly. Please do not capitalise variable names in regressions and similar analyses.

Quotations

For quotations single quote marks should be used, reserving double quotation marks only for quotes within quotes. Indent any quotations over 40 words in length and remove the quotation marks.

Headings

Please use no more than two levels of headings. Do not number headings or paragraphs. Try to make sure that two levels of headings are not used next to each other without text in between.

Tables and figures

Tables and figures should be submitted as separate files, with their location notes in the text. The publisher will typeset the tables; charts, diagrams and other illustrations (figures) must be in a form suitable for reproduction without retouching. Each table should have a table number, a heading, clear labels for all rows and columns used, a description of units of measurements used, and a note on sources. Each chart should have a figure number, a heading, clear labels for the X and Y axes, or for bars in histograms, including indications of units of measurement and a readable scale or background grid, a clear legend distinguishing multiple data series from each other, and a note on sources.

Notes

Please keep endnotes to an absolute minimum and use only for essential contextual background, to provide details of variables or methods, or for similar material which, while essential, would none the less be disruptive of the flow of the main text, or of interest only to a minority of readers.

Acknowledgements should appear as an unnumbered first note.
References

*Political Studies* and *Political Studies Review* use a Harvard system of referencing, without any accompanying notes wherever possible. The first component of the system is that the author’s last name and date of publication are given at the reference point in the main text, enclosed in brackets:

(Rawls, 1971)

If an author has more than one cited publication for this year, add a, b, c etc to the date. Denote pages by p. and pp., and spell out the pagination for any chapter cited rather than using Ch:

(Rawls, 1992b, pp. 47-48)

Where two or three works are referenced at the same time they are enclosed within the same brackets and separated by a semi-colon:

(Rawls, 1971; Smith 1979, p. 24)

Where four or more works are referenced at the same point in the main text this could disrupt the flow of the argument and look off-putting. On such occasions only an endnote number may be inserted instead, leading to an endnote listing the works cited in the normal Harvard style, but without accompanying brackets since the endnote is a discrete unit:


The second component of the Harvard system is a single complete list of references given at the end of the article, arranged in alphabetical order of the author’s last name. The reference list must contain all literature cited in the main text and any occasional end notes; it may not contain a reference unless the work has been explicitly cited. The format of each reference starts with the last name of the author, followed by her initials, a full stop and then the date of publication in brackets. The entry then continues with different formats for books, chapters in edited books and journal articles as follows:

**Book**


**Chapter in a book**

Journal article


Paper presented


Proceedings


Electronic journal article


Web page


The author of a web page can be an individual or a corporate body. The publisher is the organisation responsible for maintaining the website.

PhD thesis (unpublished)


Newspapers


Never use Latin referencing expressions such as op cit, loc cit, ibid, and avoid any abbreviation terms. In circumstances where one or a few texts are referred to many times, however, it may be acceptable to introduce an acronym into Harvard referencing as a shortcut, so long as it is explained clearly on first use. For instance, John Locke's Two Treatise on Civil Government might be abbreviated to TTCG. Similarly if a non-normal referencing system is being repetitively used, (such as a sequence of Book, Volume, Chapter
and Section in an older political thought text) an initial explanation must ensure that readers
know how to interpret the reference.

If you need help, contact:

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