

**Report of The Editor
to the Editorial Board of *The American Journal of Political Science*
and to the Executive Council of
The Midwest Political Science Association
April, 2006**

In this report, and in response to related requests, we discuss the roles of the Editor, the Associate Editors, and the Advisory Board, our goals and activities since January, 2006, basic descriptive data on submissions, review, and decision, and discussion points for the meeting of the Editorial Board on Friday, April 21.

I. Organization and Management

Marianne C. Stewart, Editor of *AJPS*; Professor and Executive Vice Dean, School of Social Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas; former Political Science Program Director, National Science Foundation. Research and instructional areas:

- Comparative Government and Politics: Anglo-American Countries and Western Europe.
- Democratization, Globalization and International Relations
- Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior – Co-principal investigator, The British Election Study, 2001 and 2005.
- Political Participation.
- Research Methodology.

Major Responsibilities

- Represent *AJPS* to the Political Science discipline *and* its cognate disciplines, and them to it, through annual meeting presentations and other outreach activities
- Advocate for the journal within the planning and resource allocation processes of the Midwest Political Science Association, and advise the President, the Executive Council, and the Executive Director on its needs, priorities, and trends.
- Provide intellectual leadership, strategic planning, and Advisory Board appointments and work closely with the Associate Editors in so doing.
- Provide management structure and guidelines for manuscript recruitment, review, decision, and publication – first point of contact for all submissions and last point of decision for all manuscripts to ensure efficient operation and clear lines of communication and accountability.
- Conduct significant outreach to faculty and graduate students on manuscript submission, review processing with strict adherence to COI standards, and publication; mentor students and interns in the decision-making process of research production and dissemination.
- Work with the Association on website development, particularly that pertaining to the implementation, maintenance, and confidentiality of manuscript and review submission, database management, and Associate Editors and Advisory Board communications.
- Work with university Editorial Office Staff, notably the Administrative Assistant, to exercise administrative and budgetary oversight – salary and maintenance and operations budgets, and staff and student equipment and facilities.

Associate Editors

Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Professor and Vernal Riffe Chair, and Director of the Political Research in Statistics and Methodology Program, Department of Political Science, Ohio State University . Research and instructional areas:

- American politics: legislative politics, public opinion, voting behavior, electoral politics.
- Methodology: time series, duration analysis, and limited dependent variables.

Darrell Dobbs, Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Marquette University. Research and instructional areas:

- Political Philosophy (Classical, Modern, Medieval, Contemporary).
- Politics and Literature.
- Game Theory.
- Philosophy of Science.

Raymond M. Duch, Professor and Senator Don Henderson Scholar in Political Science, and Director of the Social Science Data Lab, Department of Political Science, University of Houston:

- Comparative Politics.
- Empirical Democratic Theory.
- Political Behavior.
- Political Economy.
- Research Methods and Statistics.

Forrest B. Maltzman, Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, George Washington University. Research and instructional areas:

- American political institutions
- Decisionmaking in Congress, the Supreme Court and executive branch
- Evolving committees in the U.S. House

Will H. Moore, Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Florida State University. Research and institutional areas:

- Conflict processes
- Government coercion, protest and rebellion, forced migration
- Human rights

Major Responsibilities

- Act as vigorous representatives of their respective fields to the journal, specifically as “scouts” for talent deserving wider recognition and as interpreters and advocates of potentially important research developments that *AJPS* should encourage.
- Participate in two-stage review process by, as appropriate, offering first-stage review of manuscript submissions prior to their proceeding, if appropriate, to full-panel review
- Draw, as feasible, on not only their respective departments but also wider national and international networks of contacts for the purpose of bringing new reviewers, researchers, and authors into the knowledge and communications networks of *AJPS*.
- Interface with members of their respective research communities on the Advisory Board, including conducting Advisory Board “breakout sessions” involving more intensive, smaller group discussions at the Annual Meeting.

Advisory Board

R. Michael Alvarez, Professor of Political Science, California Institute of Technology

Robert Andersen, Senator William McMaster Chair in Political Sociology, McMaster University, Canada

Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Frank Baumgartner, Professor of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University

Kathleen Bawn, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

Andrew Bennett, Associate Professor of Government, Georgetown University

William Berry, Professor and Syde P. Deeb Eminent Scholar in Political Science, Florida State University

Bear Braumoeller, Associate Professor of Government, Harvard University

Charles E. Butterworth, Professor of Government, University of Maryland

Brandice Canes-Wrone, Associate Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Princeton University

Gary W. Cox, Professor of Political Science, University of California, San Diego

John W. Danford, Professor of Political Science, Loyola University, Chicago

Indra De Soysa, Associate Professor of Political Science, Norwegian University of Technology and Science, Norway

Han Dorussen, Professor of Government, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Jean Bethke Elshtain, Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, Divinity School and Political Science, University of Chicago

Joshua M. Epstein, Senior Fellow in Economic Studies, The Brookings Institution

James D. Fearon, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Robert J. Franzese, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

John Freeman, Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota

Claudine Gay, Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

James L. Gibson, Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government, Washington University, St. Louis

Kristian Gleditsch, Lecturer in Government, University of Essex, United Kingdom

Robert Goodin, Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Australian National University, Australia

James Granato, Lecturer in Government, University of Texas at Austin

Thomas J. Hammond, Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University

Michael Herron, Associate Professor of Government, Dartmouth College

Kim Quaile Hill, Professor of Political Science, Texas A&M University

Simon Jackman, Associate Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

Mark Jones, Associate Professor of Political Science, Rice University

Jonathan N. Katz, Professor of Political Science, California Institute of Technology

Andrew Kydd, Associate Professor, Weatherford Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Michael Laver, Professor of Politics, New York University

Jan Leighley, Professor of Political Science, University of Arizona

David Lowery, Professor of Public Administration, University of Leiden, The Netherlands

Robert Lowry, Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University

David Lublin, Associate Professor of Government, American University

Arthur Lupia, Professor of Political Science and Co-Principal Investigator, The American National Election Studies, University of Michigan

Jay McCann, Associate Professor of Political Science, Purdue University

Kathleen M. McGraw, Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University

Helen V. Milner, B.C. Forbes Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

William T.E. Mishler, Professor of Political Science, University of Arizona

Eric Patashnik, Associate Professor of Politics, University of Virginia

Pamela Paxton, Associate Professor of Sociology, Ohio State University

Robert L. Powell, Robson Professor of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

Gerard Roland, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

Todd Sandler, Robert R. and Katheryn R. Dockson Chair in Economics and International Relations, University of Southern California

Ken Scheve, Associate Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan

Phillip A. Schrodt, Professor of Political Science, University of Kansas

Gary Segura, Professor of Political Science, University of Washington

Charles R. Shipan, Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Rochester

James Spriggs, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Davis

Duane Swank, Professor of Political Science, Marquette University

Charles S. Taber, Associate Professor of Political Science, Stony Brook University

Kathleen Thelen, Professor of Political Science and Policy Research, Northwestern University

Nicholas A. Valentino, Associate Professor of Political Science and Communication Studies, University of Michigan

R. Harrison Wagner, Professor of Government, University of Texas at Austin

Paul Warwick, Professor of Political Science, Simon Fraser University, Canada

Christina Wolbrecht, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

Major Responsibilities

- Perform standard Editorial Board functions, including acting as an agency of scrutiny and advice.
- Provide review support services to the Associate Editors and the Editor as a “working” board with each member agreeing to provide, on average, 5-10 reviews per year; thus constituting a standing and fairly stable pool of committed, expert reviewers.
- Consult on matters of editorial policy, practice, and action with respect to identifying “talent deserving wider recognition” and building, maintaining and expanding research networks.
- Participate in annual meeting breakout sessions conducted by the Editor and Associate Editors.

Editorial Office Personnel

The university’s editorial office personnel will provide support services to the Editor, to the Associate Editors, and thereby to the Journal. The personnel and their responsibilities are:

- A full-time Administrative Assistant (Sondra Gadell) – account management per university institutional support, basic website maintenance in collaboration with the Association, manuscript flow, office management, student training and work assignment, travel of the Editor and, as appropriate, Associate Editors on journal business. Reports directly to the Editor.

- Three 12-month Political Science doctoral student assistants (Walter Casey, Senior Editorial Assistant; Curt Childress and Michael Gunnin, Editorial Assistants) – mentored in professional skill and career development; work on tasks associated with journal operations, including providing points of contact regarding general requests for information about *AJPS*, manuscript receipt, and status of review processing (if not available on the *AJPS*/MPSA website), and in collaboration with the Administrative Assistant and the Association; screen manuscripts for appropriateness of review (e.g., security conditions, length, etc.)

2. Goals and Attainment

The principal goal of the editorial team for the 2006-09 *AJPS* is to build on the actions and accomplishments of Kim Quaile Hill, Jan Leighley, and other previous editors to increase the quality and stature of the *American Journal of Political Science*. More specifically, this means:

Widespread Consultation.

Widespread consultation with MPSA members and other interested researchers is intended to develop a sense of stakeholding in the Association's journal, to position it to benefit maximally from ideas for continuity and innovation in research and practice, and to broadcast its many good deeds as well as the "public value" of Political Science research. The consultation takes the following forms:

- (i) Invite MPSA members and other potentially interested experts to indicate their views on which aspects of journal structure and manuscript processing should be retained, which should be discontinued, and which should be introduced. Written (or emailed) contributions will be expected to provide a brief indication of the rationale for retention, discontinuation, and innovation, the relation of the rationale to the goals of the journal, and a list of recent publications in which the proposed action has been already taken.
- (ii) A community outreach session to be held at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association to discuss aspects of journal structure and manuscript processing.
- (iii) The *AJPS* Advisory Board performs the functions typically done by an Editorial Board as well as consultation on matters of editorial policy and practice.
- (iv) Since the journal has multiple scientific knowledge and publication components, we solicit advice on how journals can generally accommodate these and improve from other editors in Political Science as well as from journals in cognate human science disciplines.

Community Conversations

Most journals in general, and certainly those in Political Science, operate in "response" mode, that is, in reaction to largely random submissions of individual manuscripts. Although this mode remains the general practice of the 2006-09 *AJPS*, we also think that it can uphold its broad obligation to the representation of diverse interests within the Association while expanding its responsibility to scientific knowledge generation and accumulation. It achieves these two purposes in two ways. First, *AJPS* is a forceful voice for emerging research developments between two or more fields, including breaking down the theoretical, methodological and, in some cases, communication differences between them. Second, *AJPS* actively seeks out "talent deserving wider recognition," that is, genuinely promising, if not already proven, scholars from seemingly different communities, to participate in cross-field or, indeed, cross-disciplinary manuscript production and review.

Reviewer Pools.

Almost all Political Science journals have attempted to address the problem that lengthy time frames and inefficient office procedures have stretched the lag between date of submission and date of notification of authors' manuscripts. However, at least two unintended outcomes of a

well-intentioned acceleration of the review process undertaken by multiple journals have been to motivate aspiring authors to engage in less risk averse behavior that depletes the intellectual and time resources of reviewer pools. Ultimate outcomes may be an overall reduction in research quality as manuscripts that should not be submitted are, and as civic-minded reviewers stretch to accommodate editors' turnaround demands by diverting time from other projects. To avoid a "tragedy of the reviewer commons," encourage a greater degree of thoughtfulness in manuscript preparation and review, and reduce other concerns about randomization of reviews and attendant arbitrariness of decision making, the *AJPS* has attempted to:

- Introduce a process of manuscripts receiving initial evaluation from the Editor before moving to full-panel review
- Even in a "slow-moving" discipline such as Political Science, the real time gap problem is between time of observation and time of communication in some fields. In an attempt to reduce this gap, the *AJPS* works to develop creative ways of expediting the public broadcasting of interesting, important and reliable research results. Three ways involve development of on-line manuscript-submission, review-submission, and article-publication systems, with the first two of them being similar to NSF's FastLane and the latter being ajps-e which is currently in development
- *AJPS* has implemented a less generous, but not stingy, approach to the granting of revisions and resubmissions: only those manuscripts with a relatively high (>80%) probability of success are invited to revise and to resubmit.

Global Reach.

Within the past two decades, real-world developments and intellectual currents have combined to produce ideal opportunities to expand the knowledge network, that is, the pools of reviewers and authors, of *AJPS* and to project it to a growing audience of readers at non-U.S. institutions. Accordingly, *AJPS* has launched an aggressive initiative to attract an editorial team that is figuratively and literally multilingual, and that interacts easily with Political Science researchers in the United States, Canada, Eastern and Western Europe, and Southeast Asia.

3. Basic Data

Manuscript Tracker, 2006									
Fields	Decision							TOTAL	Pending Under Review
	Accept	Reject	Revise & Resubmit	Reject & Resubmit	Reject Without Review	Reject On One			
American Behavior	2	18	4	0	0	1	25	24	
	8%	72	16	0	0	4		26%	
	18%	25%	21%	0%	0%	100%	21%		
American Institutions	2	18	4	1	0	0	25	20	
	8%	72	16	4	0	0		22	
	18	25	21	14	0	0	21		
Comparative	5	26	7	3	3	0	44	23	
	11%	59	16	7	7	0		25	
	45	36	37	43	38	0	37		
International Relations	1	6	2	2	3	0	14	19	
	7%	43	14	14	21	0		21	
	9	8	11	29	38	0	12		
Methodology	0	2	2	0	1	0	5	3	
	0%	40	40	0	20	0		3	

	0	3	11	0	13	0	4			
Normative Theory	1	3	0	1	1	0	6		2	
	17%	50	0	17	17	0			2	
	9	4	0	14	13	0	5			
Total	11	73	19	7	8	1	119		91	
	9%	61	16	6	7	1				
Review Time from submission to decision in days:										
(UTD)	Minimum = 4									
	Maximum = 90									
	Average = 45									
	Average Daily Received = 3.5									
Manuscript Tracker: 2003 to 2005										
Fields	Decision							Pending		
	Accept	Reject	Revise & Resubmit	Reject & Resubmit	Reject Without Review	Reject On One	TOTAL		Under Review	
American Behavior	43	304	90	17	107	22	583		8	
	7%	52	15	3	18	4			23%	
	25%	28%	27%	40%	23%	19%	26%			
American Institutions	25	268	59	7	96	34	489		5	
	5%	55	12	1	20	7			14	
	14	25	18	17	21	29	22			
Comparative	56	247	105	14	124	21	567		16	
	10%	44	19	2	22	4			46	
	32	23	32	33	27	18	26			
International Relations	22	138	44	2	70	14	290		3	
	8%	48	15	1	24	5			9	
	13	13	13	5	15	12	13			
Methodology	6	58	9	2	26	15	116		2	
	5%	50	8	2	22	13			6	
	3	5	3	5	6	13	5			
Normative Theory	20	72	26	0	38	12	168		1	
	12%	43	15	0.0	23	7			3	
	12	7	8	0	8	10	8			
Total	173	1088	332	42	461	118	2214		35	
	8%	49	15	2	21	5				
Review Time from submission to decision in days:										
Prior	Minimum = 0									
	Maximum = 189									
	Average = 41									

Additional data on number of submissions per year and average time to decision are:

2006 to date	216	45
2005	691	41
2004	783	36

2003	803	36
2002	657	51
2001	586	39
2000	530	46
1999	546	47

4. The Table of Contents 50.4/October 2006

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Representational Altruism: The Wary Cooperator as Authoritative Decision Maker

Kevin B. Smith

5. Discussion Points for The Editorial Board

- Moving to the next phase of online manuscript submission *as well as* reviewer database management and review submission and tracking.
- Putting www.ajps.org on a firmer platform.
- Thinking about the justification for and design of *ajps-e*.
- Thinking about the justification for and design of the fiftieth anniversary issue of *The American Journal of Political Science*.