

**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, 2007**

I. Introduction

In the April, 2006 report, and in response to questions and requests at the time, we described the roles of the Editor, the Associate Editors, the Advisory Board, and the Editorial Office, and we discussed goals and activities since January, 2006, basic descriptive data on submissions, reviews, and decisions, and points of policy and practice for the meeting of the Editorial Board. In this report, we reprise several, but not all, of these topics before describing and discussing the year in review and the year ahead.

Summary

- ***Marianne C. Stewart***, Editor of *AJPS* – responsible for advancing the contributions of *The Journal* as the premier medium for the generation and transmission of knowledge about citizenship, governance, and politics; for providing intellectual leadership and strategic planning; for providing management structure and guidelines for manuscript review; for advocating for *The Journal* within the planning and resource allocation processes of the Association; for conducting public outreach, including website development and promotional campaigns.
- ***Associate Editors:*** *Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier*, Ohio State University; *Darrell Dobbs*, Marquette University; *Raymond M. Duch*, Nuffield College, Oxford; *Forrest Maltzman*, George Washington University; *Will H. Moore*, Florida State University – responsible for representing respective fields to *The Journal*, particularly talent deserving wider recognition and developments deserving strong encouragement; for participating in two-stage review process as appropriate; for interfacing with respective research communities on the Advisory Board; and for offering advice on policy and practice.
- ***Editorial Board:*** ***60 members*** from Political Science, Economics and Sociology in the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom – responsible for acting as an agency of scrutiny and advice on the expansion of research networks; providing review support; and consulting on matters of editorial policy and practice.
- ***Editorial Office:*** Sondra Gadell, Administrative Assistant I; Walter Casey, Elizabeth Clausen, and Michael Gunnin, editorial assistants.

Goals

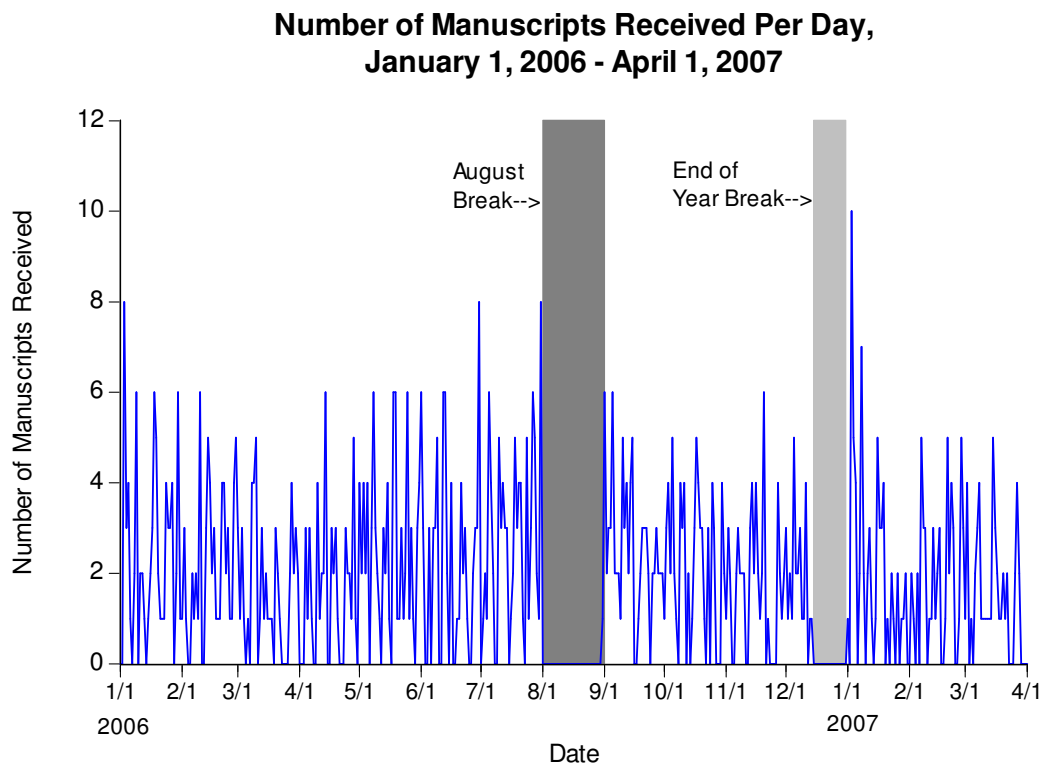
- The principal goals of the 2006-09 *AJPS* involve ***widespread consultation*** with MPSA members and other interested researchers to develop a sense of stakeholding in the Association's journal and to position it to benefit from ideas for continuity and innovation in research and practice; ***community conversations*** that make *The Journal* a voice for emerging and redirected research developments; ***reviewer pools*** to avoid a "tragedy of the reviewer commons," to 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; and ***global reach*** as *AJPS* projects to a growing audience of readers at both U.S. and non-U.S. institutions.

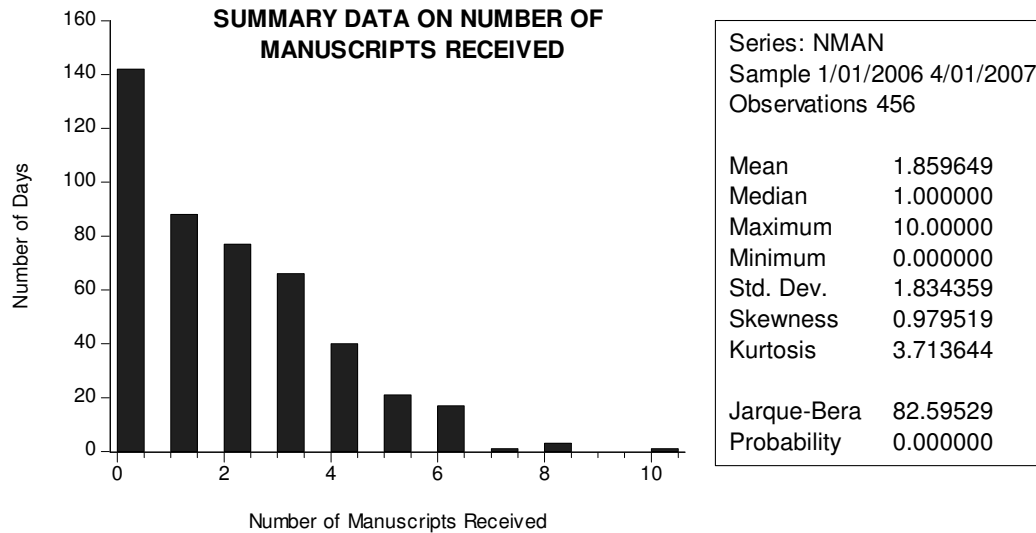
II. The Year in Review

In the past year, AJPS has worked successfully in regard to widespread consultation, community conversations, and global reach through visible presences at annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, and the Society for Political Methodology and, as scheduling permits, presentations to departments and groups of graduate students on an invitational basis. In addition, conversations among researchers have been promoted by very careful selection of reviewers of manuscripts in the expectation that what a manuscript has to say in not a monologue but, rather, it is informed by what those cited and those who review the manuscript have to say to it. And, global reach has been expanded by selection of members of the Editorial Board and of reviewers, as well as expansion of institutional and institutional subscriptions throughout the world. In this regard, institutional subscriptions, independent of consortia ones, are held in the United States (780), Canada (36), Europe (182), the United Kingdom (39), Japan (80), Australia/New Zealand (20), and elsewhere (Michael Streeter, Managing Editor, *Blackwell Publisher Report on The AJPS*, 2007).

As Figure 1 shows, the daily submission numbers expressed in terms of editorship to date (January 1, 2006 to March 30, 2007) show some variation. The 847 submissions received during 456 days of editorship are a stationary series that demonstrates a “Monday” effect as well as “break” effects. The latter refer to spikes that occur just before and just after *The Journal* closes to manuscript submissions in August and mid-December. In turn, Figure 1b shows that the daily submission numbers range from 0 to 10, and the average daily submission is 1.86.

Figure 1. AJPS Manuscript Submissions, Daily Tracker





According to Table 1, manuscript submissions tended to be equally divided between American political behavior and institutions on the one hand and comparative and international relations on the other. This pattern also characterizes those manuscripts that received invitations to revise and resubmit and those that were accepted for publication. *The Journal* further experienced an increase in the number of manuscripts submitted as pure formal theory or as EITM (empirical implications of theoretical models). (data not shown in tabular form)

Table 1. *AJPS* Manuscript Submissions, Revisions-and-Resubmissions, and Acceptances by Area of Inquiry

Year To Date (01/03/07- 03/30/07)	N Submissions	N R&Rs	N Accepted
American Behavior	40 (25%)	6 (24%)	3 (19%)
American Institutions	37 (23)	6 (24)	3 (19)
Comparative	39 (24)	5 (20)	4 (25)
International Relations	17 (11)	6 (24)	5 (31)
Methodology	14 (9)	2 (8)	1 (6)
Normative	13 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total N =	160	25	16

Editorship To Date (01/02/06-03/30/07)	N Submissions	N R&Rs	N Accepted
American Behavior	208 (25%)	34 (23%)	11 (27%)
American Institutions	173 (21)	32 (21)	7 (17)
Comparative	241 (28)	46 (31)	14 (34)
International Relations	127 (15)	21 (14)	7 (17)
Methodology	58 (7)	8 (5)	1 (2)
Normative	40 (5)	5 (3)	1 (2)
Total:	847	149	41

Table 2 reports the annual numbers of submissions and average times-to-decision for the past 9 years. In this regard, the number of submissions in the past year remained unchanged from the previous year, and both were still higher than the numbers of submissions for the first four years of the series. And, it appears that the average time to decision increased in the 2005-06 period before starting to resettle closer to its 2004-05 level or to that in the first two years of the series.

Table 2. *AJPS* Total Submissions and Average Decision Times, 1999-2007
(Journal Manager calculated, 2003-07)

1999	546	47
2000	530	46
2001	586	39
2002	657	51
2003	803	36
2004	783	36
2005	691	41
2006	694	67
2007 (to 03/30/07)	165	48

Additional comments on timing are appropriate. One is that the “reviewer arms race” now features over 140 journals in Political Science (not including those in other disciplines) chasing too few high-quality reviewers. *AJPS* alone works with over 2,500 reviewers, a portion of whom at any given time are temporarily designated as “inactives” because they recently reviewed (within the last three months). In an exercise to review and to improve the reviewer database entry, management, and manipulation capabilities of Journal Manager, a recent check on the reliability and validity of the database that it uses to compile summary statistics was done (data not shown in tabular form). It suggests – subject to further diagnostics and verification – that Journal Manager may consistently underestimate time-in-review by 50+ per cent. A corroborative check on a sample of 224 manuscripts submitted between September 1 (just after the August break) and December 14 (just before the mid-December break), 2006 indicates that the true reviewer non-response rate was 38.3 per cent (outright declines or no answers) and that

the mean number of reviewers contacted to complete a manuscript review was 4 (data not shown in tabular form). The mean reviewer turnaround time was 31 days (the median, 28), but the “last reviewer” mean response time, with a reviewer receiving a reminder every 30 days, extended a manuscript’s review time by up to 72 percent of all days that it was in residence at *The Journal*.

The Journal has continued to work aggressively to secure high-quality reviews in a timely way while allowing the Editorial Office to make ongoing and much-needed improvements to the reviewer database, to group process manuscripts, and to occasionally “hold” manuscripts so that pending reviews might help to spur additional discussion of important and interesting research questions and problems. Overall, this approach has worked to ensure greater efficiency in operations while not placing excessive and unwanted pressure on many individuals who report increasingly that they are unable to review, cannot meet the requested 30-day review response time, or will review after their current backlog of review requests and other workload is cleared out. It also is not atypical for people to accept (or, at least, not to decline) requests to review, respond to reminders that they will submit a review “within a few days,” and then not do so, thus prompting a re-recruitment of one or more reviewers.

For accepted manuscripts, and in keeping with the commitment to communicate important and useful knowledge quickly, the mean time from notification of acceptance by the Editor and time of publication by Blackwell averaged six months for the first three issues of volume 1 (2007). In 2006, the total number of articles published was 64 (50.1 – 16; 50.2 – 16; 50.3 – 19; 50.4 – 13). To date in 2007, the total number published or accepted for publication stands at 42 (51.1 – 14; 51.2 – 13; 51.3 – 15). Of these three issues, and in quiet celebration of *AJPS*’s 50th anniversary, the new cover sports a gold sash and Blackwell will sponsor a reception to which all council members and editorial board members are invited on Friday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Finally, in terms of outreach and impact, the *AJPS* has worked to expand the numbers of minorities and women among its reviewer and deserving author pools. Volume 51.1 is one indicator of this effort (see Appendix below). The Blackwell *Annual Report* for 2006 shows that total institutional circulation increased by 16.5% from 2,905 in 2005 to 3,384 in 2006. *AJPS* membership subscriptions also increased from 3,356 in 2005 to 3,568 in 2006. *AJPS* articles were downloaded 107,326 times through Blackwell Synergy (does not include downloads through JSTOR) which represents an increase of 11% in 2006 over 2005. Of the 10 articles downloaded most frequently, “Democratic Transitions” by David Epstein, Robert Bates, Jack Goldstone, Ida Kristensen, and Sharyn O’Halloran was downloaded the most. *AJPS* articles also received multiple press coverage in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Scientific American*, *Washington Post*, and United Press International.

III. The Year Ahead

Further steps to reach the goals described above will be taken in 2007-08. These include the following, some of which will be discussed by the Editorial Board:

- Review School – The Association’s online newsletter, and the proposed transition from Journal Manager to Editorial Manager, now offer important opportunities to inform and to educate members of the research communities on the importance of review and the means for doing a good review. The former offsets the potential for centripetal forces towards self-promoting communities. The latter involves both expertise and common sense – a 1.5-page review can, and often is, much better than a 5-page review but, often, people think that they must be thoroughly surgical and write more. And, an online review submission system may

very well help to relieve the time pressures placed on individuals when asked to free-text their reviews.

- Editorial Manager – The current system, Journal Manager, has primitive manuscript and reviewer database properties and the reviewer database has almost negligible information updating and search capabilities. It also is clear that this system will not be revised and significantly updated. The proposed system, Editorial Manager, has many attractive features and discussions are underway with other subscribers (including *International Organizations* and *Political Behavior* as well as its proprietors about user friendliness, customer satisfaction, database qualities, and customized use by *AJPS*.
- ajps-e – The possibility of increasing the public value of *AJPS* and the political science research that is publishes with an online publication platform needs to be considered. Publishers are developing portfolios of online content that complement and, in some cases, supplant print articles. There are advantages and disadvantages to online content with a proviso that a simple site is often more informative and used than a complex one.

IV. Appendix: Table of Contents, 50.1 – 51.3

Volume 51 / Number 1 / January 2007

Beyond Negativity: The Effects of Incivility on the Electorate

Deborah Brooks
John Geer

Substantive Symbols: The Attitudinal Dimension of Black Political Incorporation in Local Government

Michelle Marschall
Anirudh Ruhil

Does Familiarity Breed Contempt? The Impact of Information on Mass Attitudes towards Congress

Jeffrey Mondak
Edward Carmines
Robert Huckfeldt
Dana-Gene Mitchell
Scot Schranfnagel

One of Our Own: Black Female Candidates and The Voters Who Support Them

Tasha Philpot
Hanes Walton

American Patriotism Redefined as American Identity

Leonie Huddy
Nadia Khatib

Identity Salience, Identity Acceptance, and Racial Policy Attitudes: American National Identity as A Uniting Force

John Transue

Political Institutions, Competing Principals, and Party Unity in Legislative Voting

John Carey

Gerrymandering Roll Calls: Partisan Bias in Congress, 1879-2000

Jonathan Katz
Gary Cox

Political Competition and Policy Adoption: Market Reforms in Latin American Public Utilities

Maria Victoria Murillo
Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo

Explaining Policy Punctuations: Bureaucratization and Budget Change

Scott E. Robinson
Floun'say Caver
Kenneth J. Meier
Lawrence J. O'Toole

Principle verse Pragmatism: Policy Shifts and Political Competition

Margrit Tavits

The (Other) Liberal Peace: Capitalism, Common Interests, Development, and Democracy

Erik Gartzke

Learning About Democracy in Africa: Awareness, Performance, and Experience

Robert Mattes
Michael Bratton

Clarity of Responsibility and Corruption

Margrit Tavits

Volume 51 / Number 2 / April 2007

Supreme Court Appoints as A Move-The-Median Game

Keith Krehbiel

Social Capital and The Dynamics of Trust in Government

Luke Keele

Prospecting for (Campaign) Gold

Wendy Tam Cho
James Gimpel

Quality is Job One: Professional and Volunteer Voter Mobilization Calls

David Nickerson

Electoral Competition, Participation, and Government Responsiveness in Mexico

Matthew Cleary

The Logic of Gamson's Law: Pre-election Coalitions and Portfolio Allocations

Gary Cox
Royce Carroll

Electoral Competition and Agricultural Support in OECD Countries

Jong Hee Park

Paradoxes of Constitutional Democracy Nathan Jensen

Kevin Olson

Ideology and Voter Preferences as Determinants of Financial Globalization

Dennis Quinn

Maria Toyoda

The Propaganda of the Deed: Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Mobilization

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita

Eric Dickson

Reputation and Interstate Conflict (Of Friends and Foes)

Mark Crescenzi

Kant Revisited: Liberalism, Democracy, and Conflict

Vesna Danlovic

Joe Clare

Sanctions, Signals, and Militarized Conflict

David Lektzian

Christopher Sprecher

Volume 51/Number 3/July 2007

Comparable Preference Estimates Across Time and Institutions for the Court, Congress and Presidency

Michael A. Bailey

The Etiology of the Occurrence of En banc Review in the U.S. Court of Appeals

Micheal W. Giles

Christopher Zorn

Virginia A. Hettinger

Todd C. Peppers

Strategic Party Government: Party Influence in Congress, 1789-2000

Matthew J Lebo

Adam J. McGlynn

Gregory Koger

It Takes an Outsider: Extra-Legislative Organization and Partisanship in the California Assembly, 1849-2006

Seth Masket

Immigration and The Evolving American Welfare State: Examining Policies in the U.S. States

Robert Preuhs, Rodney Hero

Activists and Political Coalitions in the United States

Norman Schofield

Gary Miller

Punctuating Which Equilibrium? Understanding Thermostatic Dynamics in Pacific Northwest Forestry

Benjamin Cashore
Michael Howlett

Understanding Issue Definition: Information Processing, Social Forces, and the Politics of Global Warming

B. Dan Wood
Arnold Vedlitz

The Purse Strings of Peace

Patrick J. McDonald

Disputes, Democracies, and Dependencies: A Re-Examination of the Kantian Peace

Michael Ward
Xun Cao
Randolf Siverson

Divergence in Diversity? The Dissimilar Effects of Ethnic Cleavage on Electoral Politics in New Democracies

Johanna Kristin Birnir

Dynamics of Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Fractionalization: Measurement and Evidence from the Transition Economies

Nauro F. Campos
Vitaliy Kuzeyev

Region, Constituency, Neighborhood and/or Home: Local Contexts and Voting at the 1997 General Election in England

Ron Johnston
Kelvyn Jones
Carol Propper
Simon Burgess

Fairness and Ethnicity in the Aftermath of Ethnic Conflict: The Dictator Game in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Sam Whitt
Rick K. Wilson

AJPS Workshop

Designing and Analyzing Randomized Experiments

Kosuke Imai
Yusaku Horiuchi
Naoka Taniguchi

An Experimental Template for Case Study Research

John Gerring
Rose McDermott