



American Journal of Political Science

Editor's Report to the Executive Council of the Midwest Political Science Association April 4, 2019

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on behalf of *Associate Editors*

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The *AJPS* Editorial office and operations are supported by American University, School of Public Affairs (Vicky Wilkins, Dean) and the Midwest Political Science Association (William Morgan, Executive Director).

This editorial report is submitted to the Executive Council of the Midwest Political Science Association by Jan Leighley, Editor, on behalf of the editorial team including Associate Editors Sarah Brooks, Ohio State University; Mary Dietz, Northwestern University; Jennifer L. Lawless, University of Virginia; Layna Mosley, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and Rocio Titiunik, University of Michigan. Leighley was announced as interim lead editor on May 3, 2018, following the resignation of William Jacoby on April 19, 2018. Editorial operations were suspended from April 18 through May 21, 2018 to allow for the identification of associate editors and practical aspects of the transition.

The report provides details on editorial activities, policies and office operations from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Where appropriate, information from previous years, or information pre-/post- the appointment of the interim editorial team is provided for purposes of comparison. However, given the unexpected editorial transition, caution should be used in making comparisons over time as well as across editorships.

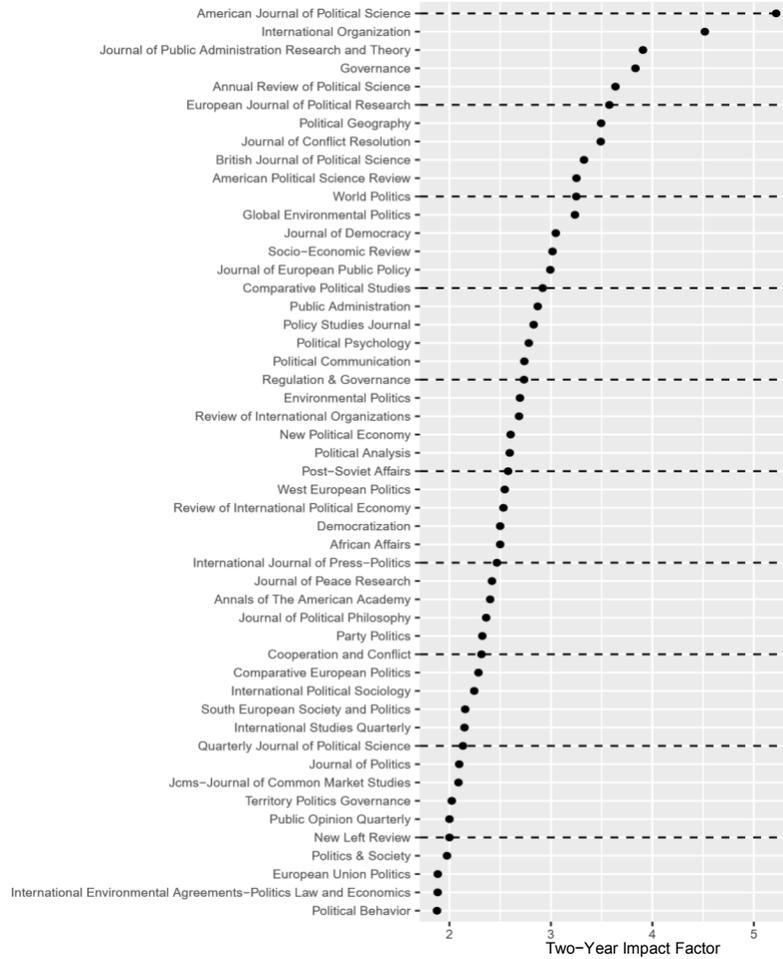
IMPACT AND IMPORTANCE

The *AJPS* has been a highly-ranked and valued leading general journal in the discipline of political science and the social sciences more broadly for many years; sustaining and enhancing the outstanding reputation and scholarly excellence of the *AJPS* are essential goals of any editorial team. Key to accomplishing this goal is monitoring the visibility and impact of the journal using standard metrics, including the commonly-used Journal Citation Report (JCR) Impact Factor (IF) and the Google Scholar h5-index. As discussed below, both measures reflect the continuing visibility and impact of papers published in the *AJPS*.

JCR Impact Factor. The two-year impact factor scores for the top fifty journals in political science are reported in Figure 1. The (two-year/five-year) impact factor scores reflect the number of citations in the current year to papers published in the *AJPS* in the previous (two/five) years, divided by the number of citable items published by *AJPS* in the previous (two/five-year) period. For 2017 (the most recent year for which these data are available), the two-year impact factor score is based on citations to *AJPS* papers in 2016 and 2015, while the five-year impact factor score is based on citations to *AJPS* papers published between 2012 and 2016.

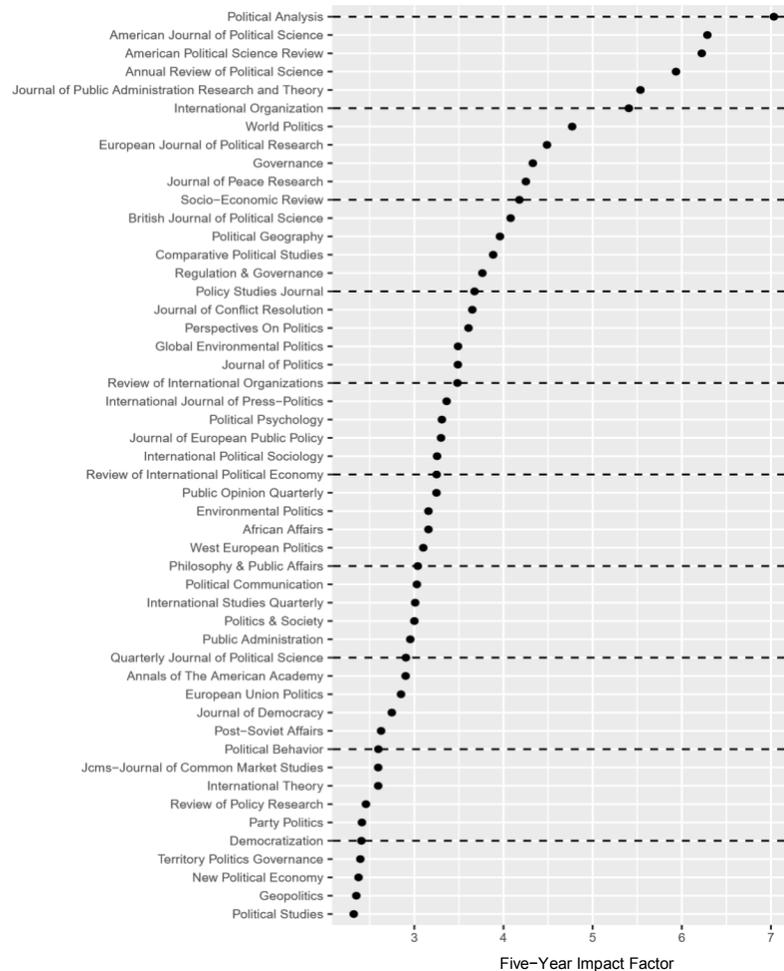
The 2017 two-year impact factor score for the *AJPS* is 5.22, an increase from 2016's score of 5.044. This is the third year in a row that the *AJPS* two-year impact factor has increased; it is also the third year in a row in which the *AJPS* ranked as the top-ranking journal in political science using this metric. In comparison, the *Annual Review of Political Science* has an impact factor score of 3.636, the *European Journal of Political Research* has a score of 3.576 and the *British Journal of Political Science* has a score of 3.326. The *American Political Science Review* ranks 10th in 2017 with an impact factor of 3.252.

Figure 1: Top Fifty Political Science Journals, Ranked by 2017 Two-Year Impact Factor



The 2017 five-year impact factor scores for the top fifty journals in political science are reported in Figure 2. The *AJPS* 2017 five-year impact factor (based on citations of papers published in *AJPS* between 2012 and 2016) is 6.3, compared to the 2016 five-year IF of 5.436. The 2017 five-year impact factor score is an all-time high score for the *AJPS*. Using this metric, *AJPS* is the second most highly-ranked journal in the discipline, following *Political Analysis* at 7.2. The third ranked journal, with an impact factor score of 6.2 is the *American Political Science Review*.

Figure 2: Top Fifty Political Science Journals, Ranked by 2017 Five-Year Impact Factor



The most highly cited *AJPS* papers within the 2017 impact factor window are reported in Table 1. Notably, these papers represent all of the discipline’s major subfields, and reflect the type of theoretical and methodological sophistication that reflect the goals of the journal. An additional detail regarding the *AJPS* impact factor scores is that the self-citation rate for *AJPS* is 3.3%, which means that only 3.3% of the citations included in the impact factor scores are citations in

papers published in the *AJPS*. In comparison, the self-citation rate for all political science journals included in the political science category is 11.3%. This suggests that the high impact factor is less dependent on *AJPS* authors citing other *AJPS* authors than it is a reflection of the impact and importance of the work, as a broader set of scholars find the work to be relevant to their scholarship.

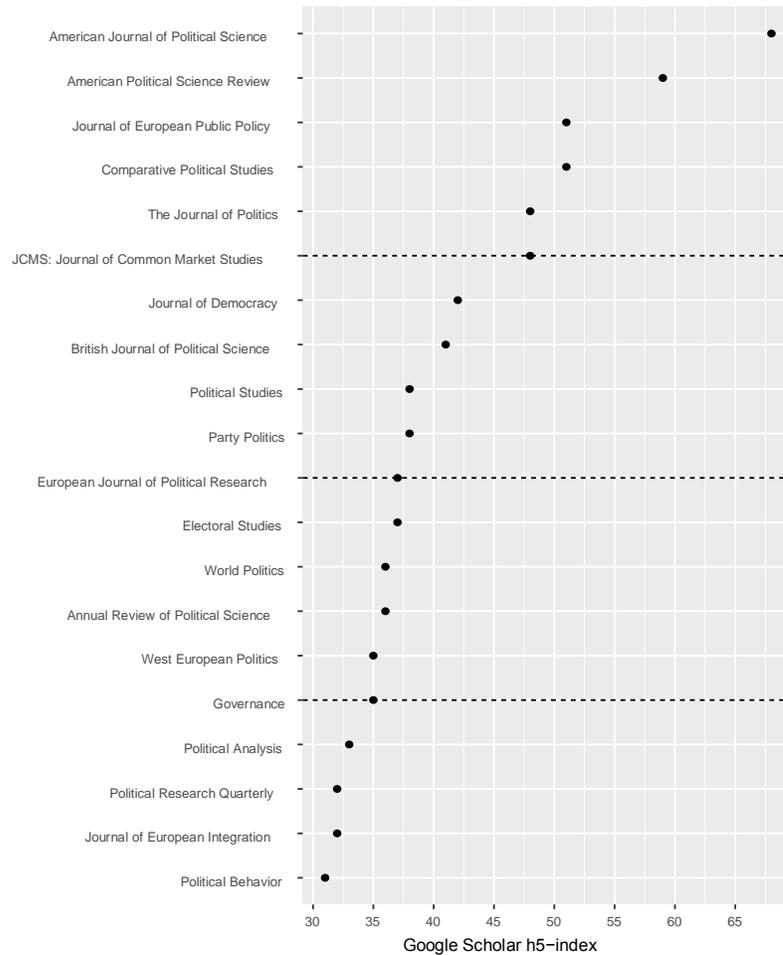
Table 1: Most Cited Papers, 2017 Impact Factor (Number of Citations in Parentheses)

1. Abadie, Alberto, Alexis Diamond, and Jens Hainmueller. 2015. "Comparative Politics and the Synthetic Control Method." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:2. (61)
2. Iyengar, Shanto, and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. "Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:3. (52)
3. Mason, Lilliana. 2015. "'I Disrespectfully Agree': The Differential Effects of Partisan Sorting on Social and Issue Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:1. (30)
4. Eggers, Andrew C., Anthony Fowler, Jens Hainmueller, Andrew B. Hall, and James M. Snyder. 2015. "On the Validity of the Regression Discontinuity Design for Estimating Electoral Effects: New Evidence from Over 40,000 Close Races." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:1. (21)
5. Chen, Jidong, Jennifer Pan, and Yiqing Xu. 2016. "Sources of Authoritarian Responsiveness: A Field Experiment in China." *American Journal of Political Science* 60:2. (16)
6. Kelley, Judith G., and Beth A. Simmons. 2015. "Politics by Number: Indicators as Social Pressure in International Relations." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:1. (16)
7. Newman, Benjamin J., Christopher D. Johnston, and Patrick L. Lown. 2015. "False Consciousness or Class Awareness? Local Income Inequality, Personal Economic Position, and Belief in American Meritocracy." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:2. (15)
8. Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2015. "The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes toward Immigrants." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:3. (14)
9. Somer-Topcu, Zeynep. 2015. "Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequences of the Broad-Appeal Strategy in Europe." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:4. (12)
10. Bechtel, Michael M., Dominik Hangartner, and Lukas Schmid. 2016. "Does Compulsory Voting Increase Support for Leftist Policy?" *American Journal of Political Science* 60:3. (10)
11. Miller, Joanne M., Kyle L. Saunders, and Christina E. Farhart. 2016. "Conspiracy Endorsement as Motivated Reasoning: The Moderating Roles of Political Knowledge and Trust." *American Journal of Political Science* 60:4. (10)
12. Soroka, Stuart N., Dominik A. Stecula, and Christopher Wlezien. 2015. "It's (Change in) the (Future) Economy, Stupid: Economic Indicators, the Media, and Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:2. (10)

Google Scholar h5-index. Figure 3 presents the Google Scholar h5-index scores for the top twenty political science journals. The Google Scholar h5-index is the largest number h such that h articles published in the previous five years have at least h citations each; for 2018, the citation period includes 2013 to 2017.

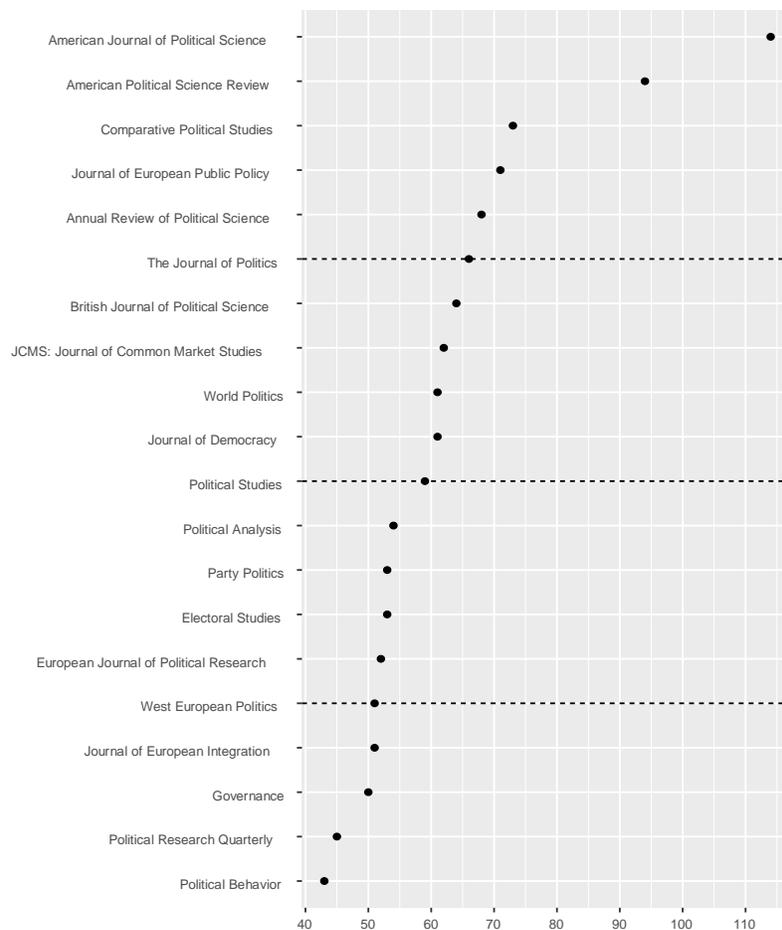
In 2018, the *AJPS* 2018 Google Scholar h5-index score increased to 68, compared to scores of 64 in both 2017 and 2016. This indicates that 68 articles have been cited at least 68 times during the five-year period from June 2013 through June 2018. This score is the highest achieved by political science journals included in the Google Scholar metric. In comparison, the 2018 h5-index score for the *American Political Science Review* is 59, and the 2018 h5-index score for the *Journal of Politics* is 48. Among all social science journals in 2018, the *AJPS* ranks 8th, as it did in 2017, with other journals having scores between 75 and 91.

Figure 3: Top Twenty Political Science Journals, Ranked by 2018 Google Scholar h5-index



A variant of the h5-index score is the h5-median score for the journals that are ranked with the twenty highest h5-scores. The h5-median gives the median number of citations to the articles that are used to create the h5-index score. Figure 4 presents the h5-index scores for the top twenty political science journals. *AJPS* leads on this metric as well, with a score of 114, followed by the *American Political Science Review* at 94, and *Comparative Political Studies* at 73. This is a notable shift from the 2017 median scores, when the *AJPS* was tied with the *American Political Science Review* at 104, and *The Journal of Politics* h5-median score was 81.

Figure 4: Top Twenty Political Science Journals, Ranked by 2018 Google Scholar h5-median



CONTENT USAGE

A more detailed picture of usage—beyond impact metrics—is reflected in download statistics provided by our publisher, Wiley. In 2018, article downloads from the Wiley Online Library and EBSCO totaled to 400,576. Note that these data do not include downloads from JSTOR (or other databases), which is another important source of access to *AJPS* around the world.

The ten *AJPS* articles that were downloaded most frequently from the Wiley site in 2018 are listed in Table 2. The breadth of the *AJPS* scholarly impact is reflected by the representation of nearly all subfields in the top-ten downloads list.

Table 2: Ten Most Frequently Downloaded *AJPS* Articles in 2018 (Number of Downloads in Parentheses)

1. Huff, Connor, and Joshua D. Kertzer. 2018. "How the Public Defines Terrorism." *American Journal of Political Science* 62:1. (5,437)
2. Taber, Charles S., and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50:3. (3,626)
3. Verhulst, Brad, Lindon J. Eaves, and Peter K. Hatemi. 2015. "Erratum to 'Correlation not Causation: The Relationship between Personality Traits and Political Ideologies'." *American Journal of Political Science* 56:1. (3,517)
4. Abadie, Alberto, Alexis Diamond, and Jens Hainmueller. 2015. "Comparative Politics and the Synthetic Control Method." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:2. (3,133)
5. Knutsen, Carl Henrik, and Håvard Mokleiv Nygård. 2015. "Institutional Characteristics and Regime Survival: Why Are Semi-Democracies Less Durable Than Autocracies and Democracies?" *American Journal of Political Science* 59:3. (3,121)
6. McConnell, Christopher, Yotam Margalit, Neil Malhotra, and Matthew Levendusky. 2018. "The Economic Consequences of Partisanship in a Polarized Era." *American Journal of Political Science* 62:1. (2,917)
7. Oliver, J. Eric, and Thomas J. Wood. 2014. "Conspiracy Theories and the Paranoid Style(s) of Mass Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science* 58:4. (2,790)
8. Iyengar, Shanto, and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. "Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:3. (2,755)
9. Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2015. "The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes toward Immigrants." *American Journal of Political Science* 59:3. (2,689)
10. Peisakhin, Leonid, and Arturas Rozenas. 2018. "Electoral Effects of Biased Media: Russian Television in Ukraine." *American Journal of Political Science* 62:3. (2,611)

This breadth is also reflected in the distribution of subfields among the 100 most frequently downloaded articles, and the subfield of articles contributing to the Google Scholar h5-index, as reported in Table 3. American Politics (48%) and Comparative Politics (31%) account for the largest proportion of the subfield downloads, compared to Methods (8%), International Relations (7%), Formal Theory (4%) and Political Theory (1%). Similar patterns are evidenced in the subfields of articles contributing to the h5-index, with American politics (41%) and Comparative politics (32%) having the greatest representation, followed by Methods (16%) and International Relations (10%).

Table 3: Distribution Across Subfields for the 100 Most Frequently Downloaded Articles and the 68 Articles that Contribute to the h5-index.

	Most Frequently Downloaded Articles	Articles Contributing to the h5- index
American Political Behavior	38%	29%
American Political Institutions	10%	12%
Comparative Political Behavior	15%	22%
Comparative Political Institutions	16%	10%
International Relations	7%	10%
Political Theory	1%	0%
Formal Theory	4%	0%
Methods	8%	16%
Other	1%	0%

SUBMISSIONS AND TURNAROUND TIME

Table 4 reports the number of submissions received by the *AJPS* each calendar year from 2000 to 2018. In 2018, we received 1032 manuscripts, which represents 3.45 submissions per day (with 65 days of the interim, summer and winter breaks excluded). This submission rate represents a 14.2% increase over 2017 (which had 906 submissions), and an 11.5% increase over 2016 (which had 928 submissions).

Table 4: Yearly Submissions and Mean Turnaround Time

Year	Number of Submissions	Mean Turnaround Time (days)
2000	530	46
2001	586	39
2002	657	51
2003	803	36
2004	783	36
2005	691	41
2006	694	67
2007	583	130
2008	531	118
2009	479	113
2010	760	101
2011	665	91
2012	750	107
2013	696	93
2014	874	73
2015	876	45
2016	928	54
2017	906	54
2018	1,035	55

Also reported in Table 4 is the mean turnaround time (from date of first receipt to first decision) compared to turnaround times for previous years. In 2018, turnaround time was 55 days, compared to 54 days in 2017; mean turnaround time prior to the closure to submissions on April 18, 2018, was 65 days, compared to a post-transition mean turnaround time of 49 days after re-opening on May 21, 2018. About two days of the 55-day turnaround time is taken up by authors needing to correct submissions due to failing the technical checks. The time between receipt of a manuscript to inviting the first review increased pre/post transition from a mean of 0.8 to 3.6 days. This increase likely reflects the more complex editorial structure of the new editorial team as well as policy changes and staff transitions that delayed office operations.

SUBMISSION RATES BY SUBFIELD

Table 5 reports yearly submissions by subfield, as coded by the editorial office staff, for the 2011-2018 period. 29.7% of manuscripts submitted were in the subfield of American Politics (institutions or behavior), compared to 40% submitted in the subfield of Comparative Politics. Other subfields comprised far smaller portions of submissions, with International Relations at 13.8%, Methodology and Formal Theory at 10.2%, and Political Theory at 6.7%. The biggest difference in submissions by subfield pre/post editorial transition was in Comparative Politics, with those manuscripts representing 34% of submissions pre-transition, and 40% post-transition.

Table 5: Manuscript Submissions by Subfield (2011-2018)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
American Political Behavior	23.3%	24.9%	23.4%	26.1%	23.1%	25.7%	26.7%	15.8%
American Political Institutions	16.4%	18.3%	16.7%	16.3%	14.6%	20.0%	15.0%	13.9%
Comparative Politics	33.7%	36.5%	37.7%	32.1%	36.2%	21.5%	24.7%	40%
International Relations	13.6%	11.1%	11.1%	14.8%	14.0%	20.0%	17.3%	13.8%
Methodology and Formal Theory	7.3%	6.4%	7.5%	7.8%	8.4%	7.5%	10.5%	10.2%
Normative Theory	5.4%	2.7%	3.6%	3.0%	3.7%	5.3%	5.8%	6.7%

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Of the 1,035 manuscripts submitted during the year, 60 manuscripts (or 5.8%) identified a potential conflict of interest with one or more of the editors (27 were identified by authors, while 33 were identified by the editorial office). Of those 60 manuscripts, 59 manuscripts (98.3%) involved conflicts where one or more of the authors are colleagues at the same institution, current collaborators, or are/were involved on a dissertation committee with one or more of the editors. Only one author identified a potential conflict involving harassment, assault, or discrimination with one or more of the editors. However, the corresponding author failed to respond to inquiries from the MPSA Publishing Ethics Committee. Upon further review, plagiarism issues were identified by the committee and they desk rejected the manuscript.

Of these 60 manuscripts, 30.6% are still under review, while 7.9% were accepted; 1.6% were invited to revise and resubmit; and 60.3% were rejected. Additional details regarding implementation of the Conflict of Interest Policy may be provided by Sarah Binder, Chair of the MPSA Publishing Ethics Committee.

EDITORIAL DECISIONS

Table 6 reports the editorial decisions made on original submissions and revised submissions in 2018. Out of 961 initial/original manuscript submissions, 25% were declined without review, 64.8% were rejected, and 10.1% were invited to revise and resubmit. Of those manuscripts that received an R&R, 28.2% were rejected, 19.3% received an additional R&R, and 52.6% were accepted for publication. About 5% of papers revised a second time were invited to revise and resubmit, 10% were rejected, and 84% were accepted. If desk rejected manuscripts are removed from the calculations, 86.3% of initial submissions were rejected, while 13.5% were invited to revise and resubmit. Including desk rejects, the acceptance rate was 5.7%; excluding desk rejects, the acceptance rate was 7.2%.

Table 6: Editorial Decisions on Original and Revised Submissions (2018)

	Original Submission (n=961)	First Revision (n=78)	Second Revision (n=19)
Desk Reject	25.0%		
Reject	64.8%	28.2%	10.5%
Revise and Resubmit	10.1%	19.3%	5.3%
Accept	0.2%	52.6%	84.2%

Table 7 presents editorial decisions by subfield. Here, the percentage of desk rejected manuscripts is between 17-19% for Comparative Politics, International Relations and Methodology/Formal Theory. The desk rejection rate for American politics is around 13-14%, while for Political theory it is 53%. Rejection rates for initial submissions are highest in American politics (77-80%) and in International Relations (77%), followed by Comparative politics (67%) and Methodology/Formal Theory (67% and 64%, respectively), and Political Theory (43%). Revise-and-resubmit decisions are most common in Methodology/Formal Theory (19%) and Comparative Politics (14%), followed by American (8-9%), International Relations (7%) and Political Theory (3%). Acceptance rates on revise and resubmits vary from 71-82%.

Table 7: Editorial Decisions by Subfield (2018)

	<i>Initial Submissions</i>			<i>Revise and Resubmits</i>	
	Desk Reject	Reject	Revise & Resubmit	Accept	Reject
American Political Behavior (146 17)	13%	80%	8%	71%	29%
American Political Institutions (136 9)	14%	77%	9%	78%	22%
Comparative Politics (341 28)	19%	67%	14%	75%	25%
International Relations (121 11)	17%	77%	7%	82%	18%
Methodology and Formal Theory (77 16)	17%	64%	19%	75%	25%
Political Theory (60 3)	53%	43%	3%	100%	0%

Note: The values included in parentheses represent the number of initial submissions followed by the number of revise and resubmit submissions, respectively, for each subfield.

REVIEWS AND REVIEWERS

As reported in Table 8, editors sent 3,605 reviewer invitations and received 2,173 reviewer reports in 2018. Of the reviewers who responded affirmatively to the reviewer invitation, 20% declined to review, and 16.4% were released from the reviewer invitation. The reviews received in the journal office were generally lengthy, detailed and professional in tone. In addition, as we re-opened the editorial office in May, the editorial team was impressed (and relieved) by the positive responses of reviewers from whom we asked for especially quick turnaround times, or for reviews although they had recently just returned a review on another manuscript.

Table 8: Reviewer Response to Invitations (2018)

Response	Percentage (n = 3,605)	Subtotal
Completed Review	56.7%	
Review in Progress	6.5%	63.2%
Declined Invitation	20.3%	
Never Responded	0.0%	20.3%
Did Not Need Review	16.4%	16.4%

The distribution of reviewers' substantive recommendations is provided in Table 9. 54.5% of the submitted reviews recommended the manuscript be rejected; 30.4% recommended a revise and resubmit, 8.9% recommended to publish with minor revisions; and 6.2% recommended to publish as is. The mean number of days between reviewer invitation until receipt of the review was 34.7 days.

Table 9: Reviewer Recommendations (2018)

Recommendation	Percentage (n=2,173)
Decline	54.5%
Revise and Resubmit	30.4%
Publish with Minor Revisions	8.9%
Publish as Is	6.2%

SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS

A few additional details about changes in social media visibility suggest that that the journal's presence in these venues continues to be strong. As of March 15, 2019, AJPS had 5,018 followers (up from 4,425 on March 12, 2018). Twitter followers have increased to 10,188 up from 7817 in March 2018. As provided by Melissa Heeke, MPSA communications director, the

most popular tweet from 2018 (ignoring editorial transition updates), was the September 26, 2018 post announcing the availability of the article "All Male Panels Erode Citizens' Perceptions of Democratic Legitimacy" with 51 retweets and 81 likes. The corresponding post to the *AJPS* Author Summary blog was also the highest rated non-administrative new post in 2018 with 644 views.

The most-viewed author summary from 2018 was the February 23, 2015 post summarizing the article "The Semiconstrained Court: Public Opinion, the Separation of Powers, and the U.S. Supreme Court's Fear of Nonimplementation" which has a lifetime total of 3,557 views (739 of those from this calendar year as of March 18, 2019).

EDITORIAL POLICIES

As I noted in my 2018 mid-year report presented at APSA last fall, "The outstanding reputation and impact of the *AJPS* at the start of the new interim editorship suggested that our primary task was to "do no harm" while the journal was our responsibility. As such, I have focused on continuing most general editorial practices established by previous editors. The goals of publishing papers that make notable theoretical advances, using the most sophisticated, rigorous methodological approaches, as appropriate, are ones that the entire team has embraced. By choosing the most qualified reviewers, reading each manuscript carefully, and assessing the potential impact of each paper, we have continued decision-making on submitted manuscripts using the same standards as previous editors."

The major shift in the editorial office is a new model of decision-making that relies heavily on five associate editors—each primarily responsible for the research subfields in which they have established their research expertise. As lead editor, I review every paper that is submitted and assign each paper to the appropriate associate editor. The associate editor then identifies appropriate reviewers, manages the review process, and drafts decision letters. I again review the manuscript, its reviews and the decision letter before sending notification of the outcome of the review process to each author. On the rare occasion of authors appealing decisions, I had full responsibility for responding to the author's concerns.

Another priority was the implementation of the new conflict-of-interest policy passed by the MPSA Council in April 2018. This policy required re-working the submission interface of Editorial Manager to allow editorial operations to comply with the COI policy, as well as working with the Publication Ethics Committee (PEC) to establish procedures for COI's that require external review by the committee. Sarah Binder, PEC committee chair, was especially helpful to the editorial office in addressing various COI-related issues from the submission process through the selection and implementation of any modified (internal and external) editorial review processes. We have now sorted out the EM software issues, and both internal and external review processes, in the case of COI's, as far as getting manuscripts out under review.

We took advantage of making (required) changes to the EM submission process as an opportunity to consider other (ethical) issues that should be addressed through that process, and

added new questions regarding who the authors of the manuscript submission have co-authored with over the past five years, who their dissertation chairs are, and whether the manuscript authors have received IRB approval (if needed) for the research that the manuscript reports. We were confronted by an unexpected issue regarding “text recycling” in the first few weeks of the editorship that required a substantial amount of attention. As a result, I focused on revising the submission guidelines available on the website, eliminating redundancies as well as ambiguities and inconsistencies in those guidelines. I have organized a panel on “Issues in Peer Review” during the annual meeting to invite a conversation among our members, both authors and editors, to consider the complexities of these issues.

In August, we announced a new policy generally limiting Supplemental Information (SI) files that are submitted with manuscripts to twenty pages, assuming that authors’ needing an exception to the limitation would request one. The length of SI files had become an issue for the editorial team as we received a number of complaints from referees about the length of the SIs, and members of the editorial team agreed that some changes, or elaboration, would improve the utility, quality and value of having the SIs be available to reviewers. The team’s sense was that there had been little discussion and even less clarity over what the appropriate use and presentation of SIs are, and that we needed a more formal statement of our expectations. Although we imagined that there might be different needs across subfields, methodological approaches, and other dimensions, we have had very few requests for exceptions; most of the exceptions have been for formal theory papers or papers in the other subfields where extensive documentation of experimental stimuli, questionnaires, or simulation results, for example, require more pages. I have approved nearly every request for an exception to the length limit.

Perhaps the most exciting milestone to be reported is that this month’s issue will include the first paper relying on qualitative data analysis that has been verified for publication in the *AJPS*, “The Disclosure Dilemma: Nuclear Intelligence and International Organizations” by Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. I worked with Colin Elman, Diana Kapiszewski and Sebastian Karcher at the Qualitative Data Repository (Syracuse University) to implement the procedures initially identified by Bill Jacoby and Colin Elman, and continue to work to ensure that the verification processes for qualitative and quantitative analyses run in parallel, as appropriate. We announced this important milestone by Twitter and with an editor’s blogpost on the background of the policy. In addition, the authors will be posting an essay on their experience on the journal’s website in late April.

I am also working with Colin Elman and Wiley on the possibility of adopting ATI overlays to our qualitative papers, and the possibility that it might be relevant to quantitative analytical approaches as well. As Colin described ATI to me: “ATI is a new approach to openness in qualitative research. The approach is based on the concept of “open annotation,” which allows for the generation, sharing, and discovery of digital annotations across the web. Scholars who use ATI create such digital annotations, each of which links to a particular passage in a digitally published article. These annotations can contain analytic notes (that might discuss, for example, the generation and analysis of the data underlying the textual claim/conclusion), source excerpts (and translations as needed), as well as the data sources themselves. By accelerating access to research-enhancing information, easing readability, and empowering annotations to be FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable), ATI augments and amplifies the impact of

qualitative research in the natural, health and social sciences.” Once Wiley assesses the possibility of *AJPS* offering this option to authors, the new editorial team will be able to move forward on this policy as they see appropriate.

With the support of the entire editorial team, I am proposing here—subject to editorial board feedback—to change the name of the *AJPS* “Replication Policy” to “Verification Policy.” The issue of the appropriate policy name has been raised in different contexts over the past year. As I became increasingly aware of the critical role that *AJPS* plays in advancing transparency in research, I also became increasingly concerned about the mismatch of the policy name and the common intellectual meanings associated with “Replication.” The terminological meaning is all the more important as we begin to verify papers that rely on qualitative research methods. As a result, I plan to announce changing the policy name from “Replication Policy” to “Verification Policy.” The next editorial team will be clarifying procedures for qualitative verification, as well as revising author guidelines to assist authors of accepted papers in the verification process.

As we enter the last seven weeks of our editorial term, we will be focused on cleaning up as many manuscripts as possible to avoid passing along any “problematic” manuscripts or decisions, and to assist the new editorial team as they take over on June 1.

EDITORIAL OFFICE OPERATIONS

The editorial office has been in a state of transition from last April to the beginning of February 2019. Associate editors came on board over a month-long period in May/June, and Julia Salvatore starting as Editorial Administrative Assistant in July. Julia took on the responsibility of managing the daily administrative tasks (relating to “clearing the inbox,” managing students who are working as editorial assistants and providing various types of data base and other administrative support to all of the editors). The Michigan State editorial interns (Nate Smith and Jessica Schoenherr) continued to work through the end of August, with the AU staff beginning at the end of July. We took an abbreviated (two-week) summer break to focus on shifting responsibilities more fully to AU, and only in September trained the last staff person in the AU office. From September through December, MSU PhD students Nate Smith and Emma Slonina updated the reviewer database and worked on a variety of other projects that will benefit future editorial teams. Updating the reviewer data base is a task that few editorial offices have the resources to accomplish, and the diligent work of the Michigan State graduate students will greatly benefit the next editorial team.

The transition would have been impossible without the outstanding skills and commitment of Marty Jordan, who continued to serve as Managing Editor through the end of our summer break. Marty shifted to Production Editor in September, working on a variety of tasks associated with the publication process at Wiley, the replication process at Odum, and various reports and website communication responsibilities. In short, while the associate editors were learning their jobs, Marty was the one who was holding the operation together. However, Marty resigned this position effective December 31, 2018, to accept a full-time (faculty) position at Michigan State. Rather than hire and train an entirely new staff person to take on the part-time position of Production Editor, I worked with Will Morgan at the MPSA to combine the Editorial Administrative Assistant and Production Editor positions into a full-time Managing Editor

position. Julia Salvatore undertook these new tasks with great energy and focus, while continuing to manage the standard daily operations of the editorial office.

We have relied on four AU students—Ryan DeTamble and Austin Rogers, Ph.D. students in the Department of Government, Natalie Hedden, an MPA/MPP student in the School of Public Affairs, and Bradley Erickson, an undergraduate political science and economics major with plans for graduate school—to conduct technical checks on manuscripts and to provide reviewer suggestions for some of the associate editors. With seemingly endless staff transitions on top of several important policy changes, their faithful work was an important support to the entire editorial team.

The *AJPS* has benefited greatly from the expertise of Mike Streeter at Wiley to expand the audience and impact of the *AJPS*. Mike (and the rest of the Wiley team) was incredibly helpful during the transition and throughout the year as we sought to keep things moving along. I am certain that “Wilely” received far more email requests for help from this editor than previous editors—and I am grateful for their quick, helpful and gracious responses.

We also continue to follow the established policies and procedures associated with the *AJPS* Replication/Verification Policy, relying on the fine work of the Odum Institute as well as the Qualitative Data Repository. I attended or have been invited to attend related events (at a pre-APSA workshop and at a conference at the University of Chicago in the fall) and will be presenting on a roundtable on verification/replication at the Society of Science Editors meeting. These additional editorial commitments are important for ensuring that *AJPS* is represented and “at the table” in conversations taking place among data scientists, social scientists, and others. It is only by making this investment that the journal will continue to play a leading role in the discipline.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I have long believed that journals, associations and departments are fragile institutions. Yet the past several months have provided countless examples of the impressive skills, professional values and expertise of the academic community that supports the *AJPS*. The MPSA Council, the Editorial Board, the Michigan State University staff, the MPSA staff, the production team at Wiley, the staff at the Odum Institute, the QDR team, and the staff at AU deserve recognition for the excellent work they have done to continue to produce the outstanding journal that is the *AJPS*.

Last but certainly not the least, I want to thank Sarah, Mary, Jen, Layna and Rocio for sharing the responsibility of the journal over the past year, and doing so with great integrity (and humor). These five associate editors—all distinguished scholars in their respective subfields—agreed to serve for the one-year interim term despite prior commitments, no advance notice, and minimal support from their home institutions. Editing journals is typically an act of either intellectual leadership or thankless service—perhaps both—but in these circumstances, it was simply more than that.

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