

## Editor's introduction

The editorial offices for *Political Behavior* are, as of January 1, 2015, located at the Department of Political Science at Iowa State University. This is the beginning of a four-year term for me and I am looking forward to it. Manuscripts will continue to be managed via the Editorial Manager system and the new email address for the journal is [polbehavior@iastate.edu](mailto:polbehavior@iastate.edu). As the new editor, I wanted to take this opportunity to let the research community know about my approach to editing the journal.;

To begin with, I want to thank the previous editors, Jeff Mondak and Tom Rudolph. The best thing about taking over *Political Behavior* right now is that the journal is in amazing shape. The quality and quantity of submissions and published articles has increased dramatically during their term as editors. Jeff and Tom have run the journal with professionalism and grace. They have also been remarkable to work with as we make the transition to Iowa State. As a field, we owe them our gratitude for their efforts in improving *Political Behavior's* place in the discipline. Their legacy will continue for quite a while as this and the next several issues will continue to publish manuscripts they have shepherded through the editorial process.

I also appreciate the efforts of the *Political Behavior* editorial selection committee. The committee has expressed their confidence in me through their choice. I know that there were several excellent proposals and I intend to do all I can to justify the committee's selection. It is my goal as editor to make *Political Behavior* the preeminent journal in the field and authors' first choice of where to submit manuscripts.

As editor I am making several changes to the journal and I will outline three of them here. My hope is that these changes will make submission to and reading of the journal more attractive to scholars. First, all manuscripts that begin the review process during my term as editor will be required to make their data and replication code available prior to publication. I have signed on to The Data Access and Research Transparency Joint Statement. In practice, this means that authors will have to make their data and replication code available through a trusted digital repository. This is not a requirement of submission, but no manuscript will be accepted unless these steps are taken.

Second, I am working to increase the social media presence of *Political Behavior*. The journal now has a Facebook page and a twitter feed (@PolBehavior). More importantly, I will be creating a blog for the journal (I am still working on a name). Authors of accepted manuscripts will be expected to write short accessible versions of their work to be published on this blog. Several members of the journal's new editorial board have experience with existing blogs and my hope is to try to cross-post to several of the more popular blogs. The goal is to make our work more accessible and widely read. These tools are an important step towards this.

Finally, I am making a change to how I communicate with authors who have submitted a manuscript. One of the worst aspects of the review process is the uncertainty and lack of information. Typically, authors submit a paper and are then kept in the dark until the eventual decision comes from the editor. I am implementing a new step in the process. 45 business days after a manuscript has been submitted, I will send out an editorial update to the corresponding author. This email will inform him or her about how many reviews are in and the deadline given to the outstanding reviewers. This information will be updated every 15 days after this initial email. My hope is that this relatively easy reform will lower the anxiety of authors, particularly graduate students and assistant professors, and make the review process more humane.

I am hopeful that *Political Behavior* will continue to improve over the next four years. This will, of course, depend on the contributions of scholars in the field. I encourage all scholars of political behavior to consider submitting their manuscripts to *Political Behavior*. I know that in some circles the journal is seen as an outlet for American politics or, narrower still, analyses of the American National Election Study. Having published that type of work in this journal myself, I am not to denigrating it. But the mission of the journal is much broader than that. I have actively tried to add more international scholars and researchers who study areas of the world that haven't been included in the journal previously to the Editorial Board. Additionally, I welcome work that comes from different theoretical orientations, for instance behavioral political economy. The wider the range of articles *Political Behavior* publishes, the wider it will be read.

Finally, *Political Behavior*, like all other journals, depends heavily on the graciousness of scholars to review manuscripts. Given the current submission rates, I anticipate sending out more than 1000 review requests next year. It is vital that you agree to review for the journal. I know that this is time consuming and often not very rewarding, but is an essential piece of the peer review system. If you haven't been asked to review for *Political Behavior* in the past, please contact me via the journal's email address ([polbehavior@iastate.edu](mailto:polbehavior@iastate.edu)) and I will get you in the database. The guidance offered to me by reviewers will be essential for the success of authors and the journal.



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