

# Editor's Report for the *Journal of Political Science Education*

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## INTRODUCTION

The editorial team for the *Journal of Political Science Education* has now been running the journal for the last five years with support from the American Political Science Association (APSA) and specifically from Jon Gurstelle— Director of Publications for APSA. In 2021, our fifth year working on the journal, we have a good team of managing editors and editorial assistants at the University at Albany, at Auburn University and at Roger Williams University to ensure the process has gone smoothly.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FIFTH YEAR

In our fifth year of running *JPSE* as an APSA-wide journal, we continue to get a fair amount of submissions from authors for all four sections of the journal. The section with the highest number of submissions is the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) section. The section with the second highest number of submissions was Political Science Instruction. There were an equal number of submissions to the Books, Teaching Tools, Educational Resources, and Reflections on Teaching and the Academy sections this year. We must note that the number of submissions went down this year, which we believe is likely caused by a higher volume of demands on educators as a result of Covid-19. We continue to use our Twitter handle (@JPSE\_Editors) to tweet out articles and retweet information relevant to political science pedagogy. We have sent out more tweets this year than in years previous, but are planning to work harder on our Twitter presence by sending out tweets on a more regular basis. Where two years ago we had 300 followers and last year we had 582 followers, we now have 810 followers on Twitter.

This past year, of the articles published by *JPSE*, 47% of authors were women. This was a slight decline from the percentage published articles written by women last year, which was 53% (see Table 1). We have continued to see diversity in the ranks of submitting authors, having received submissions from various professors, lecturers, students, and administrative personnel. The majority of our submissions have been from Assistant Professors (32%) followed closely by Associate Professors (22%). Authors from public universities make up the most amount of submissions (72.3%), followed by private universities

(20.5%). This year, impressively, every reviewer asked to do a review said yes to the request. In sum, our team has enjoyed this fifth year of the journal and look forward to its continued growth and impact. We should note that we believe the external pressure of Covid-19 likely caused the drop in number of submissions this year. We would also like to give credit to our editorial board, who have been extremely helpful in reviewing submissions this year.

**STAFFING**

Our staff at the *Journal of Political Science Education* consists of five co-editors, who work collaboratively together as well as independently on their own respective sections of the journal. Two student managing editors and two editorial assistants also work on the journal, part-time. Our current managing editors are Mirren Galway, Olivia Vecchio, and Waffah Ahmed, all of whom will be continuing this year. These three managing editors are all students at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Chiara Sinigaglia and Tatevik Khachatryan, who are students at Roger Williams University, and Stephanie Bickerstaf, who is at Auburn University, are currently serving as Editorial Assistants and will continue to do so this coming year.

**PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY**

**AUTHOR DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographic distribution of *JPSE* authors are reported in tables 1, 2, and 3. Currently, 47% of our article authors are women and 53% are men— almost an even split. The authors of articles in *JPSE* are spread across different ranks, with assistant professors being responsible for more submissions than any other rank again this year (32%). As stated in table 3, 22% of our submissions were from somewhere other than the United States this year, leading to an increase of 7.5% in international submissions from last year. Submissions came from 6 countries other than the United States. Table 4 shows the Distribution of Authors by type of Institution for accepted papers. Of this year’s authors, 72% were affiliated with public institutions.

Table 1: Authors by gender (percentage of total — includes co-authors)

Female	Male	Total
39 (47%)	44 (53%)	83

Table 2: Authors by rank (percentage of total — includes co-authors, all original submissions)

Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Student	Administration/ Professional	Other	Total
10 (12%)	18 (22%)	27 (32%)	5 (6%)	6 (7%)	13 (16%)	4 (5%)	83

Table 3: Author by country of submission (percentage of total — includes co-authors, all accepted submissions)

Number of Original Submissions	Percentage	Country of Submitting Author(s)
1	2.4%	Australia
2	4.9%	Canada
1	2.5%	Finland
2	4.9%	Germany
2	4.9%	Israel
1	2.4%	United Kingdom
32	78%	United States
Total	41	100%

Table 4: Distribution of authors by type of institution (percentage of total — includes co-authors)

Issue	College	Non-academic	Private University	Public University	Total
July- Sept. 2020	1 (6.2%)	2 (12.5%)	3 (18.8%)	10 (62.5%)	16
Oct.- Dec. 2020	0	0	5 (22%)	18 (78%)	23
Jan.- March 2021	0	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	14 (70%)	20
April- June 2021	0	0	6 (25%)	18 (75%)	24
Total Articles Accepted and Percentage	1 (1.2%)	5 (6%)	17(20.5%)	60 (72.3%)	83 (100%)

## CONTENT AND TREATMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS

Table 5 shows the percentage of original articles submitted (both SoTL and Political Science Instruction sections), as well as the percentage of review articles and reflection articles. A total of 57 manuscripts were submitted this year, which were either rejected, accepted, or revised for resubmission (see Table 6). Our current rejection rate is 67%, which is higher than the rejection rate of last year in order to compensate for our article backlog. This year, we had 100% of reviews completed (see Table 7). As shown in Table 8, the average turnaround rate for the editorial board was 30 days. Our general reviewer turnaround was 31 days. These numbers are down from last year's respective rates of 47 and 42 days. The editorial board this year is made up of 45% women and 55% men, as seen in Table 9. Table 10 shows the editorial board member percentages by type of institution, and Table 11 shows where our editorial board is located. The majority of our editorial board is from Public Universities and the United States. Table 12 shows the ranks of our editorial board, illustrating that the majority of editorial board members are full professors. Our current H5-Index and our H5-Median is visible in Table 13. We should note that our acceptance rates are somewhat inflated this year (as in every year) because book reviews are part of the acceptance rate. The method by which book reviews are processed is different from the processing of other articles, particularly due to the fact that there is no blind review process for book reviews. ■

Table 5: Types of submission (percentage of total, original submissions)

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning	Political Science Instruction	Books, Teaching Tools, and Educational Resources	Reflections	Total
26 (45.6%)	13 (22.8%)	9 (15.8%)	9 (15.8%)	57 (100%)

Table 7: Reviewer statistics

# of Completed Reviews	# of No Replies	# of Declines	# of Assigned/Agreed	# of Reviews Invited
135 (100%)	0	0	135 (100%)	135

Table 8: Average reviewer turnaround time

Years	Editorial Board as Reviewers	General Reviewers
2019-2020	47 days	42 days
2020-2021	31 days	30 days

Table 9: Editorial board by gender (percentage of total)

Female	Male	Total
12(45%)	15 (55%)	27

Table 10: Distribution of editorial board by type of institution (percentage of total)

College	Non-Academic	Private University	Public University	Total
0	0	6 (22%)	21 (78%)	27 (100%)

Table 12: Editorial board by rank (percentage of total)

Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Student	Administration/Professional	Other	Total
16 (59%)	5 (18%)	1 (4%)	0	0	5 (19%)	0	27 (100%)

Table 13: Current citation rates (impact factor) using Google Scholar

Publication	H5-Index	H5-Median
Journal of Political Science Education	16	19

Table 6: Manuscript Decision - Total Submissions Decided (Original Submissions)

Manuscript Status	# of Manuscripts	Percentage
Accepted	9	15.8%
Revise and Resubmit	8	14.2%
Reject <sup>1</sup>	40	67%
Total	57	100%

<sup>1</sup>This is the percentage of all rejected manuscripts, not of all new manuscripts

Table 11: Editorial board by location (percentage of total)

Editorial Board Members	Percentage	Country
1	4%	Slovakia
1	4%	Belgium
2	7%	United Kingdom
23	85%	United States
Total	27	100%
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