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INTRODUCTION

Editor-in-Chief's introduction to the issue and volume 41 in review

Gregg R. Murray

Email: GMURRAY@augusta.edu

The editors of *Politics and the Life Sciences* are pleased to release the first issue of volume 42. It includes a wide range of topics from genetics, political behavior, and personality (Weinschenk et al., 2023) and military adoption of brain-computer interfaces (Kosal & Putney, 2023) to racial and ethnic differences in trust in health care providers (Smith et al., 2023) and state-sponsored espionage in U.S. life sciences research (Vogel & Ouagraham-Gormley, 2023). It also includes the 2022 Association for Politics and the Life Sciences (APLS) Conference Keynote Address on "Expanding our thinking about discrete emotions and politics" by David Redlawsk (2023). And sadly, it memorializes Dr. Joseph Lasco, a valued APLS colleague and energetic proponent of biopolitics, in the final pages (Johnson, 2023).

In 2022, *PLS* celebrated its forty-first year of publication. The editorial team thanks the scholars who accepted invitations to review last year. The journal could not function without the efforts of these volunteers. Fifty-two scholars contributed to the journal, its authors, and, more broadly, the scientific endeavor in this capacity last year:

Craig Albert	Matthew Hibbing	David Redlawsk
Talbot Andrews	Reuben Kline	Angel Saavedra Cisneros
Hayley Aniol	Casey Klofstad	Jerome Schafer
Kavita Berger	Margaret Kosal	Carl Senior
Robert Blank	Jaimie Krems	Jaime Settle
Mitch Brown	Aleksander Ksiazkiewicz	Phillip Singer
Richard Burchill	Marika Landau-Wells	Kevin Smith
Timothy Callaghan	Christopher Larimer	Wiktor Soral
Scott Clifford	Heather Lench	Stephen Utych
John Cook	Aaron Levine	Mateusz Wajzer
Kim Davies	Nan Li	Roberta Weiner
Zening Duan	Jordan Mansell	Ann Williams
Sophal Ear	Patrizia Milesi	Susan Wright
Bryan Gervais	Susan Murray	Yufan Yang
Robert Gilbert	Lutchmie Narine	Richard Yon
Claire Gothreau	Robert Ostergard	Xia Zheng
John Heslen	Cynthia Pando	
John Hibbing	Thomas Pegram	

The journal received original submissions in 2022 from 12 different countries, including Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. Sixty percent of original submissions came from contributors in the United States and 15 percent from Europe. While the acceptance rate varied by

article type, of the final decisions issued in 2022 on Research Articles and Research Notes, a bit less than 50 percent were "accept."

Ongoing research suggests that open access (OA) articles receive greater attention from the research community (e.g., Langham-Putrow et al., 2021). So, the editorial team began actively encouraging authors from institutions with a "transformative" Read and Publish agreement with Cambridge University Press to publish their articles OA. These agreements permit authors to publish their articles open access at no cost to themselves. As a result, *PLS* now boasts a collection of 25 OA articles, 14 of which were published in volume 41 in 2022.

In 2022, *PLS* also began awarding open science badges for open data, open materials, and preregistered studies. The goal of this new practice is to increase the credibility of *PLS* articles by making independent verification of results easier. The fall issue included five articles that were awarded all three badges (for an overview of these articles, see Friesen et al., 2022). Though *PLS* is still new at open science badging, the editorial team is convinced of its value (e.g., Schneider et al., 2022) and will continue to encourage its authors to pursue this recognition.

Speaking of promoting good science, the fall issue, which included the five previously mentioned open science articles, was a special issue with a theme of "Life Science in Politics: Methodological Innovations and Political Issues." This special issue was the third in a series of issues featuring competitively selected registered reports funded by the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, the scientific society that founded and continues to oversee *PLS*. It is worth noting that APLS's commitment to the journal and particularly the open science program is substantial, as it has funded more than $35,000 of studies in the last few years.

Overall, the journal has experienced notable improvement in recent years. Article downloads from Cambridge Core, JSTOR, and ProQuest exceeded 100,000 in 2021 and 2022, up from around 61,000 in 2018 and 63,000 in 2019. And that does not include downloads from EBSCO or BioOne. Further, Table 1 shows its CiteScore, a citation-based journal performance metric derived from the Scopus database, has increased resulting in an improvement in its ranking among peer journals.

Table 1. *PLS* CiteScore and CiteScore Category Rank Percentile, 2016-2021.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
CiteScore	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.7
Category Rank Percentile						
Sociology & Political Science	47	48	53	45	53	65
Social Sciences	31	38	44	37	49	64
Public Administration	31	30	37	26	35	49

*most recent full-year data available

In terms of editorial matters, the APLS Council renewed the editor-in-chief's term for a second three-year term, which will end in 2025. Further, the editorial team offers its sincerest thanks to Carl Senior, who leaves his role as an Associate Editor of *PLS* after three years. Carl was instrumental in helping the new editorial team hit the ground running through thoughtful discussion with the team and insightful guidance to contributors.

Last but certainly not least, the editorial team thanks the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences for its ongoing and substantial support of *PLS* and the scientific endeavor. The editors also thank Cambridge University Press, the journal's publisher, for supporting and promoting *PLS* around the world.

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