



The Journal of Politics

Annual Report to the Editorial Board and Southern Political
Science Association Executive Council

January 2022

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This annual report from the Lead Editor of the Journal of Politics (JOP) to the Editorial Board and to the Executive Council of the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) covers the workings of the JOP and operations in the editorial offices at the University of Hamburg during the first year after taking over the editorship of the JOP in January 2021.

This report presents information regarding the scope of the Journal's influence in the discipline, the volume and reception of submissions to the JOP, as well as data on the journal's operating procedures, including the performance of both editors and referees.

The report also contains information on new policies introduced under the new leadership and data on social media exposure as well as replication of empirical analyses.

1 Introduction

In January 2021 a new team of editors under the lead of Vera E. Troeger (University of Hamburg) took over the editorship of the JOP. The new team has now finished their first year of editing the Journal of Politics and this report summarizes the editorial activities of this first year.

2021 proved to be a very challenging year not just for journal editors. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us in different ways and made life and work more difficult. This pandemic also influenced the functioning of the editorial process and collaboration of the editorial team. With more pressing time constraints and the absence of meetings in person, some of the goals we set out in our editorial proposal were affected by these constraints.

The interims report (2021) details the transition difficulties faced by the incoming editorial team. We have now dealt with the backlog of manuscripts thanks to the hard work of the editorial team and by filling 4 "super-issues" that absorbed the excess. We are back to an editorial process where the number of accepted manuscripts does not exceed one and a half normal-length issues. This ensures that accepted manuscripts move swiftly into production and appear on the JOP webpage without any delay.

The key aims for our editorial tenure are listed below and activities during 2021 to achieve these aims are presented and discussed:

1. A team of editors that is diverse with respect to background and location and that covers broad fields in political science, as well as different approaches to conducting high quality research.
2. An editorial process that is structured efficiently with the help of a streamlined decision process and also embraces a set of checks and balances to guarantee diversity, inclusivity, fairness, and high standards of quality for research published across all subfields.
3. Support of high standards of quality and transparency with rigorous checks and replications of accepted work. Maintain existing reproducibility standards, as well as develop new strategies and measures to streamline the replication process and ensure that standards are maintained across fields, e.g. by introducing replication of proofs in Formal Political Theory.
4. Expand the journal's international impact as a leading outlet for analytical and substantively driven analyses of the highest scholarly quality in all subfields of political science.
5. Strengthen the recognition of the JOP beyond political science by expanding its focus on interdisciplinary research, especially at the border between analytical political science and economics.
6. Strive to increase diversity through outreach activities. Targeted at underrepresented subfields and groups, these are meant to encourage the submission of all of the best

political science and interdisciplinary research to the JOP.

7. Endeavour to increase scholarly impact, as measured by citation indices and impact factors, to push up the journal's ranking and hence visibility in the profession.

8. Strengthen the impact and visibility of research published in JOP within academia and beyond. With the help of regular blog posts, social media forums, and other media, to increase attention and readership, making research more accessible for non-academic audiences such as policy makers, international, and (non-)governmental organizations, as well as journalists and the media more generally.

To achieve these goals we have changed the editorial process from having dedicated field editors who make editorial decisions on manuscripts in their respective fields autonomously to an editorial process with checks and balances where associate editors have overlapping expertise in different fields and decisions are made jointly between associate editors and (deputy-) lead editors. Below we will present some numbers on the editorial process that allow judging the performance of the editorial team in 2021.

Already at the start of our term, it became clear that the political science community and SPSA members, while appreciating the new editorial process, felt that not all subfields of political science were equally well represented. Indeed the Journal of Politics receives a large share of manuscripts in Political Theory - a field in which none of the initial editorial team members has particular expertise. After monitoring the editorial process and submission numbers and discussion with the SPSA leadership, we decided to add an additional associate editor with expertise in Political Theory to the editorial team in 2022.

The search was supported by members of the editorial board but turned out to be more difficult than expected. We are now happy to announce that Professor Emanuela Ceva from the University of Geneva is joining the editorial team in 2022. Emanuela is Professor of Political Theory at the Department of Political Science and International Relations and Vice-Dean of the School of Social Sciences. She specializes in political philosophy, with a particular interest in institutional theory. She has held visiting fellowships, among others, at the universities of Oxford, St. Andrews, Montréal, Hitotsubashi (Tokyo), KU Leuven, and Harvard. In 2018, she received a Fulbright Scholarship in philosophy. Emanuela Ceva works on themes of justice, democracy, corruption, trust, and the political role of moral emotions. One of her current research projects analyses on what normative grounds officeholders may mutually trust their interrelated conduct to sustain the functioning of their institution. It also identifies the ethical and emotional bases for activating the internal self-correcting capacity of an institution when the officeholders' interrelated action fails.

In addition to adding expertise in Political Theory, we also realized that we need more expertise and help in the field of American Politics, American Institutions, especially with a focus on judicial politics because the SPSA membership contains a strong constituency in this particular field. We were able to convince Sharece Thrower, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University, to also join the editorial team in 2022. Her research focuses on how both Congress and the Courts constrain the president's use of various policy instruments such as executive orders, signing statements, rulemaking, and regulatory review. We are certain that these additions to the editorial team will solve

issues raised by the political science community, increase the diversity of the team and help making the editorial process more balanced and efficient.

We introduced replication (reproduction) of empirical analyses to increase transparency and keep up with developments of DART and Open Science. A replication report is shown below. Replication has been received quite positively by authors submitting their work to the JOP. Our experiences so far do not indicate that replication analyses add substantive time to the editorial process since it is conducted in parallel with minor revisions and preparation of final files.

As suggested in the editorial proposal, we implemented a pre-analysis plan requirement for experimental work. Again, this policy is introduced to increase transparency, robustness and replicability of empirical work in the social sciences and to keep up with developments in other disciplines. There has been some controversial feedback and discussion about the new policy and we are aware of potential problems of this requirement. We therefore formed a working group (lead by Alexander Wuttke, University of Mannheim) to refine this policy and provide clear guidance to submitting authors. This working group is also preparing a proposal for a trial at JOP to evaluate submissions of preregistered reports.

Finally, in order to increase visibility and impact of work published in the JOP we started a social media campaign in the beginning of the year and also started the JOP Blog on recently accepted manuscripts that feature research and discussions on current issues relevant to politics and society. The blog was received very well by authors of work that was just accepted by the JOP and the blog posts received a lot of attention on Twitter. A report on these activities is presented below.

The new editorial process and additional editorial steps such as replication required to adjust the editorial manager (EM) in several ways. This took some time and effort but was greatly supported by the team at UCP. In addition, we added several new features to EM in order to provide more insightful analyses of the editorial process. For example, we collect more information on authors, such as gender and nationality to be able to detect potential biases in the editorial process. We present some descriptive analyses below. This data will become more useful in the future when we can analyze trends over time and look at potential causes for these trends and changes.

2 Impact and Importance

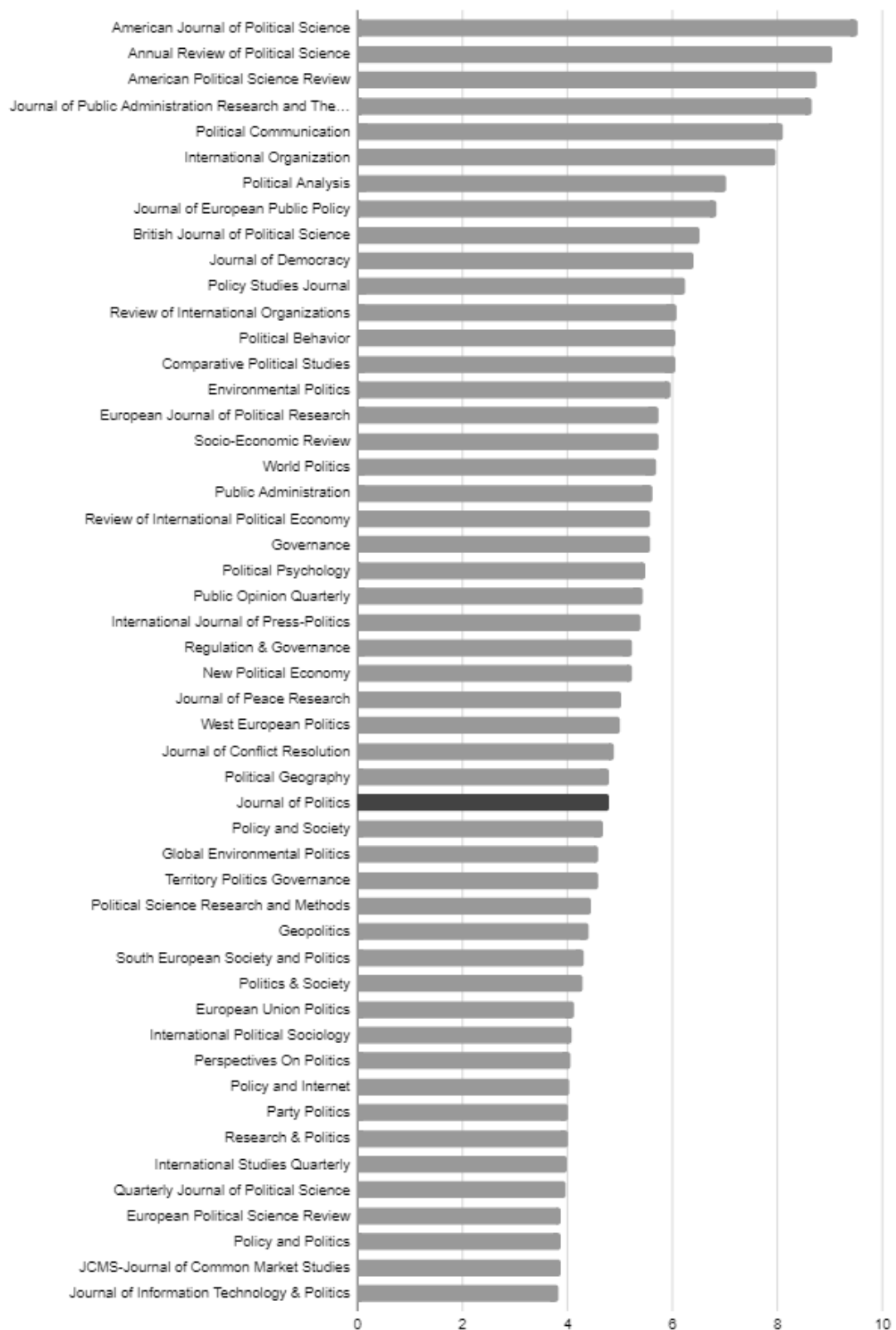
The Journal seeks to maximize its impact and influence both within political science as a discipline, as well as across social and behavioral sciences more broadly. In keeping with this mission, the editorial assistants collect and analyze data related to the JOP's relative placement on several metrics that reflect the extent to which research published in the JOP is seen, shared, and placed in dialogue with other scholarship. Some summary statistics assessing these measures are reflected in the following figures.

There are several metrics that assesses the influence of a journal, with one of the most popular being the five-year impact factor. The most recent five-year impact factor for the fifty highest-scoring journals in political science is presented in Figure 1. This measure represents the average of citations per edition year to the number of articles published each of the previous five years, divided by the total number of articles published over the

preceding five years.

The 2021 five-year impact factor for the Journal is 4.785 - a clear increase as compared with 2020 when it was 3.234 and 2019 when the impact factor was 3.348. The Journal is currently ranked 31 out of the 183 political science journals indexed in the Web of Science, which reflects a slight loss as compared to the previous years when it was ranked 29. Thus, while the overall impact of the journal increased according to the five-year impact factor, this did not result in a relative gain as compared to other journals in political science. This absolute increase in impact reflects the great work of the previous team. To also generate relative gains in impact, we have started an extensive social media campaign and a regular JOP Blog to increase visibility of JOP content. Hopefully this effort will be reflected in both a higher overall impact factor and also a better relative rank of the journal in the coming years.

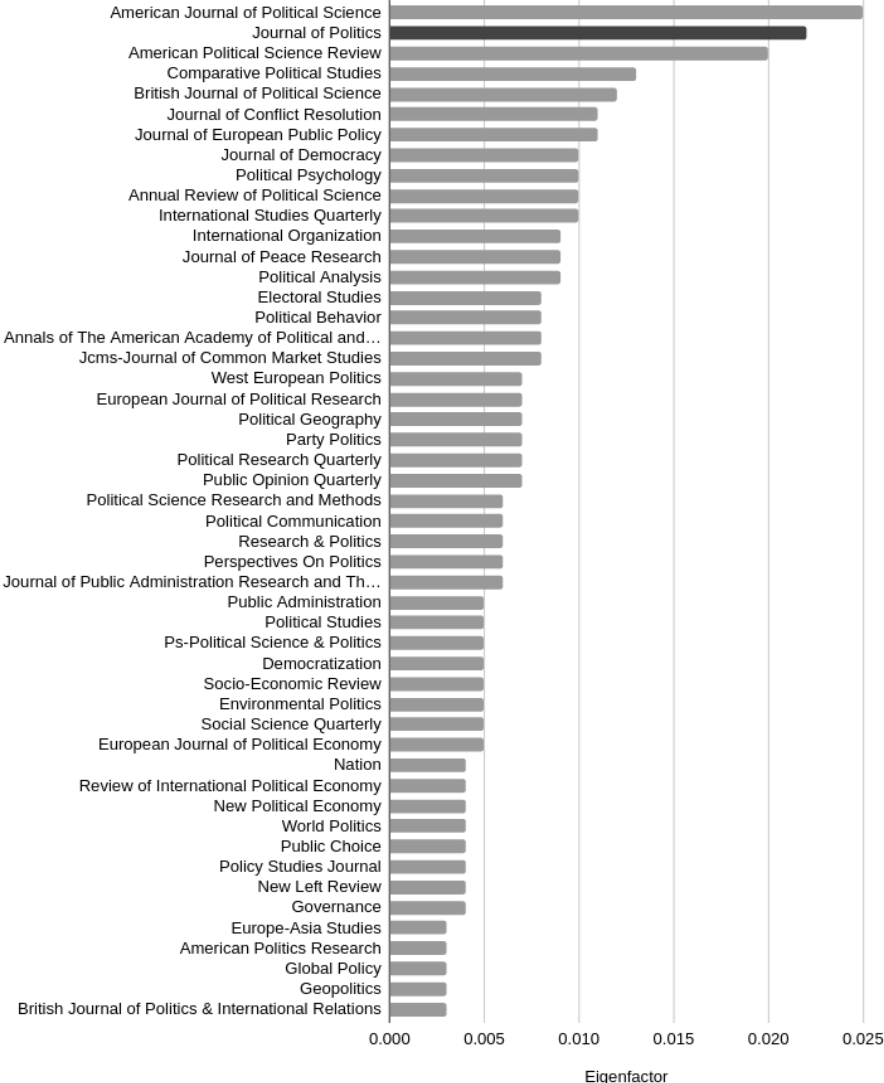
Figure 1: Thomson-Reuters Five-Year Impact Factors (2021), Political Science



A potentially more revealing but less popular assessment of the JOP’s influence in the field can be seen in the JOP’s article influence score, which is arguably a more robust measure of impact given that it accounts for the significance of where the citations occur rather than just the pure citation count.

Additionally, these scores are not influenced by journal self-citation since references from one article in a journal to another article from the same journal are removed. To elaborate, the article influence score determines the average influence of a journal’s articles over the immediate five years following an article’s publication by also considering the origin of the incoming citations. This means that highly cited journals will carry more weight in the score than lesser cited journals. It is similar to the five-year impact factor in that the influence score is a ratio of a journal’s citation influence to the size of the journal’s article contribution over a period of five years.

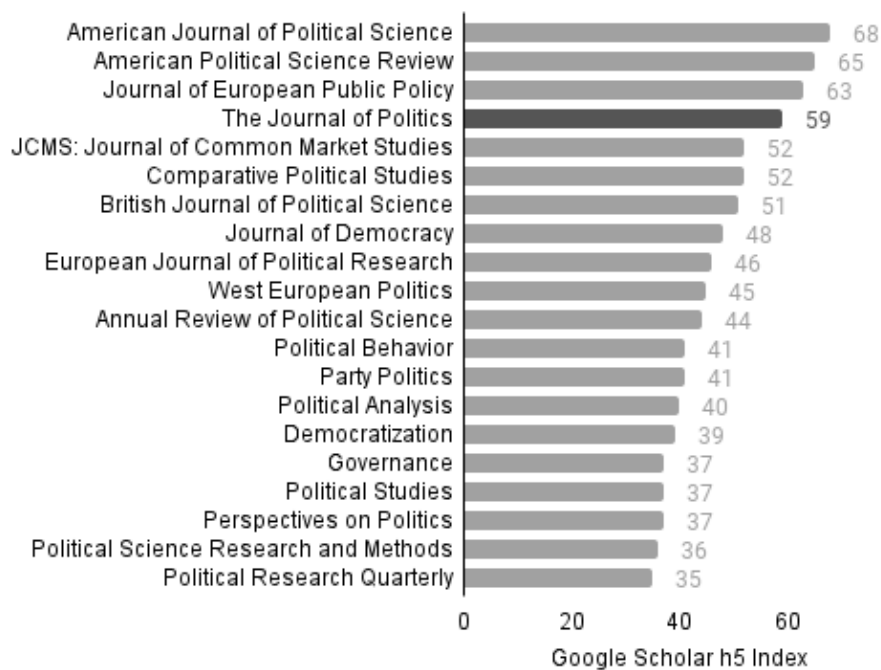
Figure 2: Eigenfactor Article Influence Scores (2021), Political Science



Broadly speaking, an article influence score greater than the mean score of 1.00 indicates that each article in the journal has above-average influence. The JOP's article influence score for 2021 is 4.593 a clear increase from the previous year when it was 2.099. This indicates a strong influence in the field. The most recent article influence scores for the top fifty highest-scoring journals in political science can be seen in Figure 2 (the x-axis here shows the non-normalized values). The Journal currently ranks 2 out of 183 (same position as in the previous year), which suggests that the JOP's articles are being cited in more significant journals. Given these data, the editorial team believes the JOP is on an upward trajectory that will position it even more impressively in the years to come.

The JOP's performance on an additional metric of scholarly impact, the Google Scholar h5 index, is presented in Figure 3 and provides further evidence of the JOP's visibility and influence relative to other publications in the discipline. The current Google Scholar h5 index value for the JOP is 59 (slightly up from previously 54), which indicates that 59 articles published in the Journal have been cited at least 59 times each during the past five years. This means the JOP ranks fourth among all journals in the discipline on Google Scholar's metric for influence.

Figure 3: Google Scholar h5 Index Values (2021), Political Science



3 Content Usage

Downloadable statistics detailing the citation and usage of JOP content in 2021 are included in the University of Chicago Press Report, to be provided by Kari Roane.

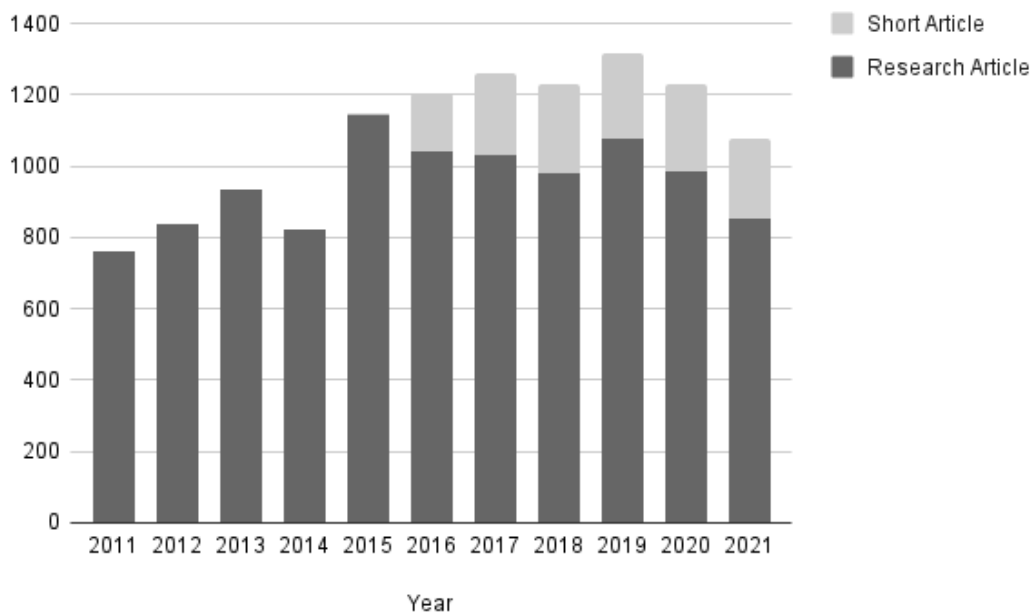
4 Original Manuscript Submission

Table 1 below displays information on the total number of manuscript submissions by year from 2011-2021. Note that submission in the short article format was not available until 2016. For the calendar year 2021, the Journal received 1077 submissions — 851 in the research article format and 226 in the newer short article format. This represents a slight decrease (12 percent) of submission as compared to 2020. This reduction in submissions is distributed unevenly between the two formats - 14 percent fewer research articles were submitted compared to an only 7 percent decrease in submissions of short articles. The latter format remains a popular way to communicate research results to the community. We attribute this decrease mainly to the COVID pandemic that impacted the ability to conduct research for many scholars, especially women.

Table 1: Manuscripts submitted to the JOP by year

Article Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Research Article	761	836	933	822	1145	1041	1031	978	1075	987	851
Short Article	0	0	0	0	1	161	229	254	242	244	226
Total	761	836	933	822	1146	1202	1260	1232	1317	1231	1077

Figure 4: Total Manuscripts Submitted by Article Type (2011-2021)



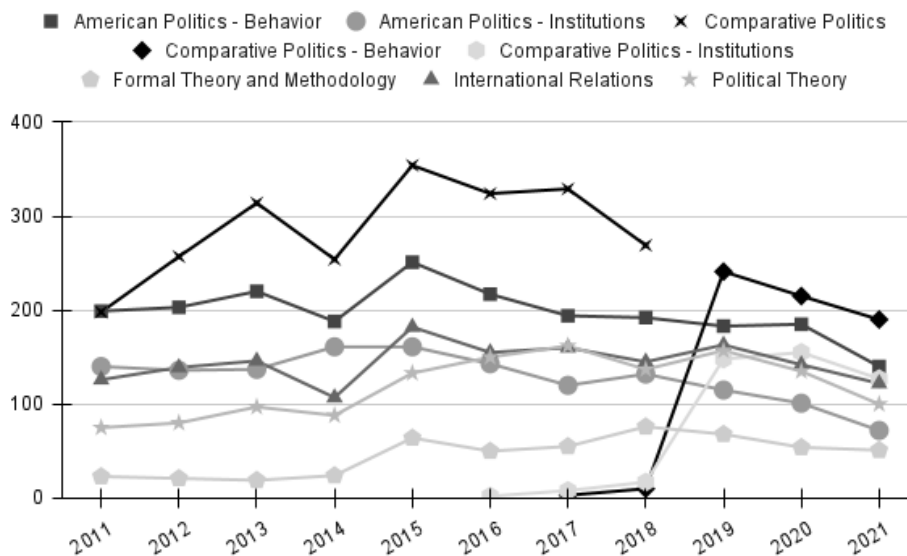
5 Submission Rates by Subfield

Submission rates to the JOP from 2011-2021 broken down by subfield are presented in Figure 5. The subfield category is initially selected by the submitting author who can choose from 8 categories. The journal office and lead editor are checking these before the lead editor decides on assigning a ms. to a handling editor with expertise in the specific subfield, also taking potential conflicts of interest into account. Since the editorial process has changed slightly the assignment of mss. to categories has also changed slightly but not substantially. The observed reduction in submissions of research articles is distributed more or less evenly across subfields with the highest decreases in American Politics - Behavior (24 percent), Political Theory (26 percent), and American Politics - Institutions (29 percent). The decrease in submissions in other subfields is slightly smaller.

Table 2: Submission of Research Articles by subfield and year

Subfield	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
American Politics - Behavior	199	203	220	188	251	217	194	192	183	185	140
American Politics - Institutions	140	136	137	161	161	143	120	132	115	101	72
Comparative Politics	198	257	314	254	354	324	329	269	-	-	-
Comparative Politics - Behavior	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	241	215	190
Comparative Politics - Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	17	148	155	127
Formal Theory and Methodology	23	21	19	24	64	50	55	76	68	54	51
International Relations	126	139	146	107	182	155	160	145	163	142	122
Political Theory	75	80	97	88	133	150	162	137	157	135	100
N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
Total	761	836	933	822	1145	1041	1031	978	1075	987	851

Figure 5: Research Articles Submitted to the JOP by Subfield (2011-2021)



The modal category for full-length research article submissions in 2021 - as in the year before - was Comparative Politics - Behavior, followed by American Politics – Behavior, and Comparative Politics – Institutions. The distribution of submissions across fields is comparable with previous years.

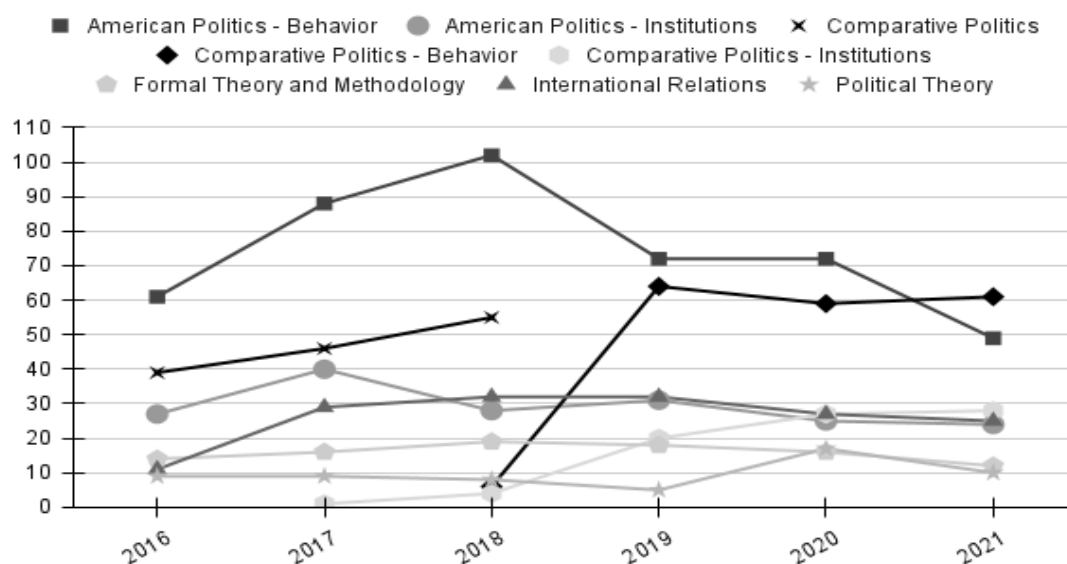
The new team is also accepting short article submissions, which provide significantly enhanced flexibility for authors seeking to submit work in an abridged form but with no deficit in scholarly rigor. Data regarding utilization of this format appear in Table 3 and Figure 6 and suggest that short article submissions have remained popular and more stable as compared to research articles.

As detailed earlier in this Report, the overall number of new short article submissions only decreased very slightly from 2020 to 2021. The additional information provided in Figure 6 indicates that the short article format is most popular in 2021 for authors submitting articles in Comparative and American Politics – Behavior.

Table 3: Submission of Short Articles by subfield and year

Subfield	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
American Politics - Behavior	61	88	102	72	72	49
American Politics - Institutions	27	40	28	31	25	24
Comparative Politics	39	46	55	-	-	-
Comparative Politics - Behavior	-	-	6	64	59	61
Comparative Politics - Institutions	-	1	4	20	27	28
Formal Theory and Methodology	14	16	19	18	16	12
International Relations	11	29	32	32	27	25
Political Theory	9	9	8	5	17	10
N/A	-	-	-	-	1	17
Total	161	229	254	242	244	226

Figure 6: Short Articles Submitted to the JOP by Subfield (2016-2021)



The distribution of original manuscripts as a percentage of total new submissions broken down by subfield for each year from 2011-2021 appears in Table 4 below. The representation of subfields has remained relatively stable over the eleven years reflected here, with the primary exception of Formal Theory & Methodology which saw a slight peak in the middle of the decade. Notably, the percentage of new submissions from the field of Comparative Politics (inclusive of Comparative Politics - Institution and Comparative Politics - Behavior) has increased as a percentage of the whole from 26.43 percent in 2011 to nearly 40 percent in 2021. In contrast, the percentage of new submissions from American Politics (American Politics - Behavior and American Politics - Institutions) has fallen by roughly 16 percentage points. The slight changes in submission shares in the different subfields in 2021 might reflect the composition of the new editorial team that sends somewhat different signals to the research community. We observe a slight increase in Comparative Politics, Formal Theory & Methodology, as well as International Relations, compared to a slight decrease in American Politics and Political Theory.

Table 4: Percentage of Total Manuscript Submissions by Subfield

Year	American Politics		Comparative Politics		International Relations	Formal Theory and Methodology	Political Theory
	<u>Behavior</u>	<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Behavior</u>	<u>Institutions</u>			
2011	26.1%	18.4%	26.0%		16.6%	3.0%	9.9%
2012	24.3%	16.3%	30.7%		16.6%	2.5%	9.6%
2013	23.7%	14.7%	33.6%		15.6%	2.0%	10.4%
2014	22.9%	19.6%	30.9%		13.0%	2.9%	10.7%
2015	22.0%	14.0%	30.9%		15.9%	5.6%	11.6%
2016	23.2%	14.2%	30.3%		13.8%	5.3%	13.3%
2017	22.7%	12.8%	29.9%		15.1%	5.7%	13.8%
2018	24.4%	14.4%	26.5%		15.0%	7.8%	11.9%
2019	19.5%	11.2%	23.0%	12.7%	14.7%	6.5%	12.4%
2020	21.0%	10.2%	22.2%	14.8%	13.7%	5.7%	12.3%
2021	18.7%	9.5%	24.8%	15.3%	14.5%	6.2%	10.9%

6 Turnaround Times

Statistics regarding the editorial management of new manuscripts appear in Table 5. We present here a comparison with turnaround times in 2020. The new editorial process, the working through the backlog, as well as the period of familiarization with EM has increased the time it took to send mss. out to reviewers. We expect now that the backlog has been dealt with, that editorial team members and administrative staff have received sufficient training in EM and have more routine with the editorial process so that tasks can be executed more efficiently and this time will reduce significantly. The different internal turnaround times also reflect the changed editorial process where manuscripts are not automatically assigned to a field editor according to the subfield category chosen by the submitting author. The changes in the editorial process, however, do not lead to a prolongation of the time it takes to make an editorial decision.

Table 5: Journal Turnaround Times (2020-2021)

Assignment	Number of Days 2020	Number of Days 2021
Manuscript submission to technical check complete	8.4	3.5
Technical check complete to editor assignment	0.7	11.2
Manuscript submission to editor assignment	3.5	12.8
Manuscript to first reviewer invitation	15.1	25.5
Submission to First Decision	59.1	61.4

7 Editorial Decisions

In 2021 the JOP editorial team rendered 916 decisions on manuscripts. Statistics regarding these decisions appear for initial submissions in the table below. Table 6 shows total numbers and percentage of accepted and rejected manuscripts by our team, including the backlog. The overall acceptance rate remains stable at just under 10 percent and is comparable with that in previous years.

Table 6: Accept and Reject decisions made in 2021

Editorial Decision	Number of Manuscripts	% of total Accept / Reject decisions
Accept	88	9.6%
Reject	828	90.4%
Grand Total	916	100%

Table 7 displays the editorial status of submissions received in 2019, 2020 and 2021 by subfield. In addition to table 6, we include manuscripts that are under review and break down each category by subfield. The acceptance rate is lowest in Formal Theory & Methodology and Comparative Politics - Behavior, and highest in American Politics. The editorial team regularly reviews and discusses these outcomes and assures similar standards for quality across subfields. Thus, these differences in acceptance rates reflect varying average quality rather than bias. We nevertheless monitor these numbers constantly and investigate the potential for biases. The rejection rates (including desk rejects and reject with reviews decisions) are relatively similar across subfields with Formal Theory & Methodology being on the lower side (this field has the lowest overall number of submissions) and Political Theory on the higher end. We investigate and discuss the reasons for this below.

Table 7: Editorial Status of submissions received in 2019, 2020 and 2021 by subfield

Subfield	Accept		Reject		Under Review		Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	33	13.7%	149	61.8%	59	24.5%	241
American Politics - Institutions	9	8.3%	68	62.4%	32	29.4%	109
Comparative Politics - Behavior	12	4.3%	180	64.3%	88	31.4%	280
Comparative Politics - Institutions	14	7.1%	133	67.5%	50	25.4%	197
Formal Theory and Methodology	3	4.3%	33	47.8%	33	47.8%	69
International Relations	10	5.9%	108	63.9%	51	30.2%	169
Political Theory	7	5.3%	94	71.8%	30	22.9%	131
N/A	-	-%	63	95.5%	3	4.5%	66
Grand Total	88	7.0%	828	65.6%	346	27.4%	1262

To investigate reject decisions further, table 8 gives more details on the different rejection categories by subfield.

The percentage of initially submitted manuscripts desk rejected by lead or associate editors increased from 31 percent in 2020 to 50 percent in 2021. This is in line with the editorial proposal submitted to the SPSA. The reason for this increase is two-fold:

1. The team made a conscious decision to desk reject all manuscripts that are deemed not appropriate for publication in the JOP because they are too narrowly focused or too weak in terms of theoretical, empirical or substantive contribution to the discipline and would thus not survive the rigorous reviewing process. This is also to fight reviewer fatigue.
2. Given the large backlog, the desk rejection rate had to be increased to avoid future stockpiling of manuscripts in the system. In comparison, the rejection rate after reviewing went down from 55 percent to 50 percent, indicating that more editorial control over desk rejects filters out manuscripts that would have been rejected by reviewers anyway.

The distribution of different rejection decisions regarding submissions in political theory reflects in part the fact that there has been no specific expertise in political theory within the editorial team so far. As discussed above we therefore decided to add an associate editor from this field to the editorial team. While there are more submissions rejected for audience, comparatively fewer manuscripts are rejected because of lack of theoretical or methodological innovation and once manuscripts are subsequently sent out for review, a larger share will be offered a revise and resubmit decision. Decisions to reject for audience are based on whether the submitted article speaks to a current debate in political science. A strong indication are references to published work in major journals in political science (including political theory and political philosophy). All of the 24 rejected manuscripts in political theory did not cite a single recent article from any (major) journal in the discipline and was thus deemed not appropriate for publication in the JOP.

Table 8: Details on rejected manuscripts by subfield

Subfield	Reject for Audience		Summary Reject		Reject with Reviews		Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	3	2.0%	79	53.0%	67	45.0%	149
American Politics - Institutions	1	1.5%	35	51.5%	32	47.1%	68
Comparative Politics - Behavior	10	5.6%	84	46.7%	86	47.8%	180
Comparative Politics - Institutions	4	3.0%	52	39.1%	77	57.9%	133
Formal Theory and Methodology	1	3.0%	12	36.4%	20	60.6%	33
International Relations	5	4.6%	42	38.9%	61	56.5%	108
Political Theory	24	25.5%	33	35.1%	37	39.4%	94
N/A	-	-%	32	50.8%	31	49.2%	63
Grand Total	48	5.8%	369	44.6%	411	49.6%	828

The editorial decisions also roughly correspond to average reviewer recommendations displayed in table 9 (overall) and table 10 (by subfield). Of course, the handling editor in collaboration with the (deputy) lead editor(s) execute editorial judgement and control and decisions are usually based on at least three reviewer recommendations.

The referees' recommendations on the manuscripts reviewed in 2021 are summarized in Table 9 below. Among the 1832 reviews we received, 260 (14.2%, 13.1% in 2020) recommended acceptance; 505 (27.6%, 28.4% in 2020) recommended major revisions; 326 (17.8%, 15.9% in 2020) recommended minor revision; and 741 (40.4%, 42.5% in 2020) recommended rejection. This reflects the highly selective standards for publication that peers in the discipline associate with the JOP. In addition, the slight increases in accept and minor revision recommendations and decrease in reject recommendations further support our desk rejection policy.

Table 9: Reviewer Recommendation Summary

Reviewer Recommendation	Reviews Completed	Percentage
Accept	260	14.2%
Major Revision	505	27.6%
Minor Revision	326	17.8%
Reject	741	40.4%
Total	1832	100.0%

Table 10: Reviewer recommendations by subfield

Subfield	Accept	Major Revision	Minor Revision	Reject
American Politics - Institutions	14.3%	27.4%	17.9%	40.5%
American Politics - Behavior	20.8%	20.8%	18.6%	39.8%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	14.9%	30.2%	15.3%	39.6%
Comparative Politics- Behavior	11.6%	32.3%	16.8%	39.3%
International Relations	15.6%	26.3%	20.6%	37.4%
Political Theory	14.9%	27.7%	17.6%	39.9%
Formal Theory and Methodology	10.2%	25.8%	20.3%	43.8%
N/A	-	27.5%	16.5%	56%

8 Reviewer Statistics

In 2021 the Journal editorial team issued invitations to 3384 potential individual reviewers (Table 11). Among the responses to these invitations, there were 2087 responses in the affirmative and 920 declines to review, and 377 of the invited reviewers did not respond to our invitation. Reviewer responses are distributed somewhat unevenly across subfields with invited reviewers in political theory declining or not responding most frequently. We also hope that this problem might be solved, at least to some extent, by the incoming associate editor in political theory who might be able to better target reviewers.

Table 11: Reviewer Responses by subfield

Subfield	Total Number of Manuscripts	Total Number of Invitations	Reviewer Agreed	Reviewer Declined	No Response
American Politics - Behavior	113	529	358	104	67
American Politics - Institutions	59	271	192	54	25
Comparative Politics - Behavior	150	719	469	193	57
Comparative Politics - Institutions	107	531	327	140	64
Formal Theory and Methodology	47	263	161	71	31
International Relations	96	542	320	166	56
Political Theory	62	367	163	155	49
N/A	33	162	97	37	28
Grand Total	667	3384	2087	920	377

Table 12: Percentage of Reviewer Responses by subfield

Subfield	Agree	Decline	No Response
American Politics - Behavior	67.7%	19.7%	12.7%
American Politics - Institutions	70.8%	19.9%	9.2%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	65.2%	26.8%	7.9%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	61.6%	26.4%	12.1%
Formal Theory and Methodology	61.2%	27.0%	11.8%
International Relations	59.0%	30.6%	10.3%
Political Theory	44.4%	42.2%	13.4%
N/A	59.9%	22.8%	17.3%

The editorial team strives to render decisions on manuscripts in a timely manner, and as such encourages referees to complete their reviews as quickly as possible. We remind reviewers frequently of (past) deadlines. Some summary figures regarding the duration of the review process appear in Tables 13 and 14 below. The average time for invited referees to respond to the review invitation was 2.1 days. Among those reviewers who agreed to review, the average time to complete their review was 29.9 days (33.2 days in 2020), and 50 percent (51.2 percent in 2020) of referees who agreed to review one or more manuscripts for the Journal submitted at least one of their reviews on time. These numbers are similar across subfields (Table 14).

Table 13: Reviewer Performance Summary

Assignment	Number of Days
Average time for reviewer to respond to invitation	2.1
Average time for reviewer to complete review	29.9
Percentage of invited referees who submitted at least one review on time*	50.1%

Note: 917 reviews out of total 1832 were completed on or before the due date.

Table 14: Reviewer performance summary by subfield

Subfield	Avg. time for reviewer to respond to invitation	Avg. time for reviewer to complete review	% on time reviewers
American Politics - Behavior	2	28.2	51.9%
American Politics - Institutions	1.9	30.7	53.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	2	30	49.6%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	2.1	31.3	48.1%
Formal Theory and Methodology	2.4	34.1	43.0%
International Relations	2.4	30.3	47.3%
Political Theory	2.5	27.7	56.8%
N/A	1.8	25.8	53.8%

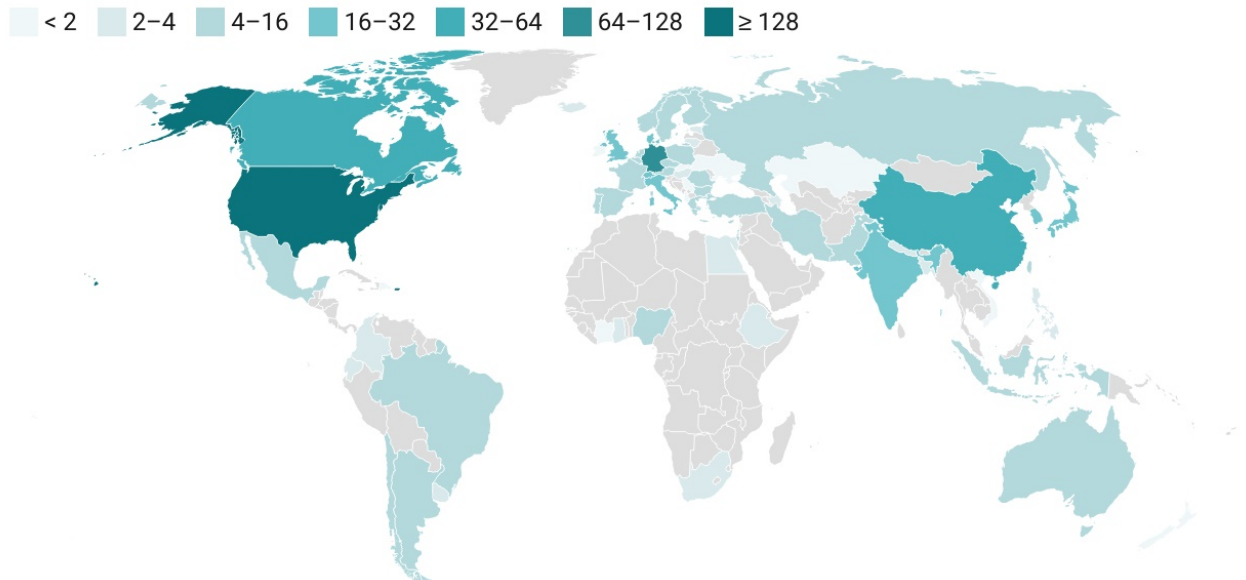
9 Author Statistics

Nationality and Ethnic Background

As promised in the editorial proposal we started to gather more detailed data on personal characteristics of authors submitting to the JOP. We start in this report to present some descriptive statistics on gender, nationality and ethnic background of submitting authors and within author teams. As more data will be collected in subsequent years, we will be able to investigate trends but also potential reasons for underrepresentation and devise strategies to encourage and support underrepresented groups.

Figure 7 displays the nationality of corresponding authors. As the JOP is the journal of the Southern Political Science Association, most submitting authors come from North America. However, an increasing number of authors is Chinese or European (especially from Germany).

Figure 7: Nationality of Corresponding Authors based on Self-Identification



Source: The Journal of Politics (2021)

Tables 15 and 16 show the nationality and ethnic background of corresponding authors across different subfields. A larger share of authors in Comparative Politics come from Europe, Asia and Latin America. Authors in Political Theory have the most varied national background, while most scholars working in American Politics and also International Relations submitting to the JOP come from North America.

Table 15: Nationality of corresponding authors by region

Subfield	Region							
	East Asia & Pacific		Europe & Central Asia		Latin America & Caribbean		Middle East & North Africa	
	American Politics - Behavior	4	2.0%	21	10.4%	2	1.0%	3
American Politics - Institutions	6	6.1%	11	11.1%	-	0.0%	1	1.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	34	13.5%	115	45.6%	13	5.2%	2	0.8%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	29	17.7%	59	36.0%	17	10.4%	2	1.2%
Formal Theory and Methodology	6	10.2%	15	25.4%	4	6.8%	2	3.4%
International Relations	22	14.9%	34	23.0%	2	1.4%	5	3.4%
Political Theory	12	10.9%	36	32.7%	2	1.8%	6	5.5%
N/A	3	25.0%	2	16.7%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Grand Total	116	11.1%	293	28.0%	40	3.8%	21	2.0%

Subfield	Region							
	North America		South Asia		Sub-Saharan Africa		Other	
American Politics - Behavior	167	82.7%	1	0.5%	-	0.0%	4	2.0%
American Politics - Institutions	76	76.8%	1	1.0%	-	0.0%	4	4.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	65	25.8%	7	2.8%	3	1.2%	13	5.2%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	46	28.0%	5	3.0%	1	0.6%	5	3.0%
Formal Theory and Methodology	25	42.4%	4	6.8%	-	0.0%	3	5.1%
International Relations	76	51.4%	4	2.7%	4	2.7%	1	0.7%
Political Theory	34	30.9%	5	4.5%	8	7.3%	7	6.4%
N/A	4	33.3%	2	16.7%	1	8.3%	-	0.0%
Grand Total	493	47.1%	29	2.8%	17	1.6%	37	3.5%

Table 16: Ethnic background of corresponding authors, based on self-declaration

Subfield	Asian or Asian American		Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American		European/ Anglo White		Latinx		Middle Eastern or Arab American	
	American Politics - Behavior	16	7.9%	7	3.5%	138	68.3%	9	4.5%	3
American Politics - Institutions	11	11.1%	1	1.0%	73	73.7%	1	1.0%	1	1.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	40	15.9%	2	0.8%	148	58.7%	11	4.4%	4	1.6%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	37	22.6%	3	1.8%	85	51.8%	12	7.3%	2	1.2%
Formal Theory and Methodology	10	16.9%	0	0.0%	33	55.9%	1	1.7%	0	0.0%
International Relations	28	18.9%	2	1.4%	81	54.7%	2	1.4%	6	4.1%
Political Theory	12	10.9%	7	6.4%	63	57.3%	3	2.7%	4	3.6%
N/A	5	41.7%	1	8.3%	4	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Grand Total	159	15.2%	23	2.2%	625	59.8%	39	3.7%	20	1.9%

Subfield	Multiracial		Native American/ First Nations/ Indigenous Peoples		Non-European/ Non-Anglo White		Other	
	American Politics - Behavior	9	4.5%	0	0.0%	6	3.0%	14
American Politics - Institutions	3	3.0%	0	0.0%	3	3.0%	6	6.1%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	12	4.8%	0	0.0%	6	2.4%	29	11.5%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	7	4.3%	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	16	9.8%
Formal Theory and Methodology	4	6.8%	0	0.0%	3	5.1%	8	13.6%
International Relations	7	4.7%	0	0.0%	7	4.7%	15	10.1%
Political Theory	3	2.7%	1	0.9%	2	1.8%	15	13.6%
N/A	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	8.3%
Grand Total	46	4.4%	1	0.1%	29	2.8%	104	9.9%

Gender distribution among submitting authors and within author groups

In 2021 roughly 26 percent of submitting authors were female, 68 percent male and 6 percent were non-binary or preferred not to answer. This distribution is roughly stable across subfields, with Formal Theory & Methodology and Political Theory being the most male dominated fields.

Table 17: Gender distribution of corresponding authors

Gender	Quantity
Female	271
Male	708
Non-binary	8
Prefer not to answer	59
Grand Total	1046

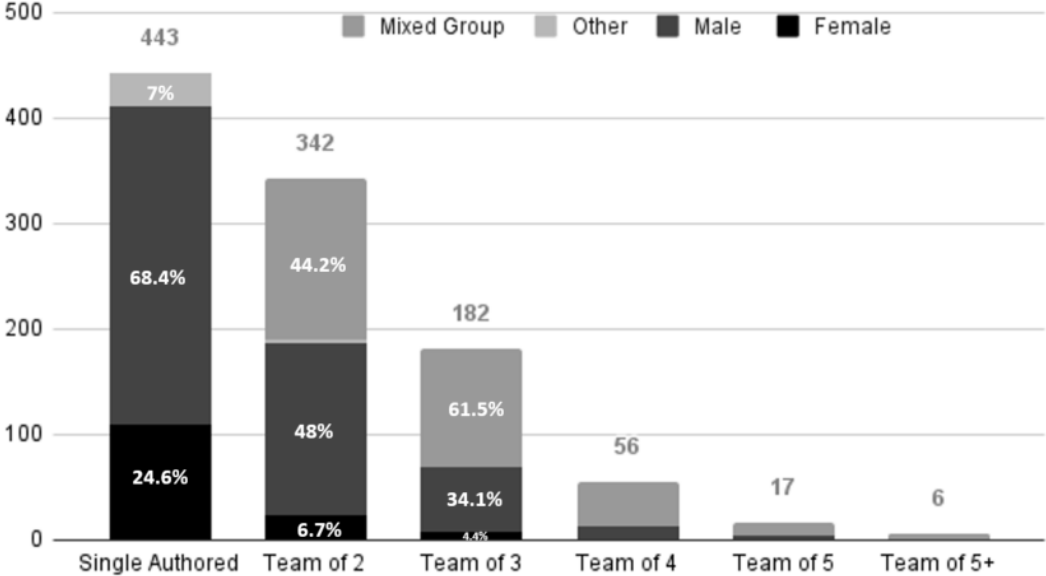
Table 18: Gender distribution of corresponding authors by subfield

Subfield	Female		Male		Other		Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	65	32.2%	127	62.9%	10	5.0%	202
American Politics - Institutions	24	24.2%	70	70.7%	5	5.1%	99
Comparative Politics - Behavior	69	27.4%	168	66.7%	15	6.0%	252
Comparative Politics - Institutions	38	23.2%	113	68.9%	13	7.9%	164
Formal Theory and Methodology	8	13.6%	48	81.4%	3	5.1%	59
International Relations	44	29.7%	97	65.5%	7	4.7%	148
Political Theory	20	18.2%	77	70.0%	13	11.8%	110
N/A	3	25.0%	8	66.7%	1	8.3%	12
Grand Total	271	25.9%	708	67.7%	67	6.4%	1046

Note: "Other" combines categories "Non-binary" and "Prefer not to say".

An arguably more informative look at author’s gender might be the distribution within teams of authors. Figure 8 shows that the largest share of papers is written by a single author whereby 68 percent of single authored papers are written by a male scholar. Also, author teams of two remain male dominated, only if teams get larger they become dominantly mixed. These numbers indicate that there is room for improvement to encourage female scholars to submit their work to the JOP.

Figure 8: Gender distribution among authors



Editorial Decisions by gender and across subfield

This section sheds some light on decisions made regarding the gender of authors and across subfields. In general, male authors have a slightly higher probability of being accepted than females but also a higher likelihood that their manuscript is desk rejected. More manuscripts submitted by female scholars are sent out for review. Obviously, the higher acceptance rate for men could have many causes including seniority, quality but also biases in the editorial process that we will monitor closely.

Table 19: Editor decisions by gender of corresponding authors, % within gender categories

Gender	Accept	Reject for Audience	Summary Reject	Reject with Reviews
Female	9.8%	6.3%	38.5%	45.4%
Male	12.1%	5.9%	42.9%	39.1%
Other	7.7%	11.5%	38.5%	42.3%

In table 20 we look in addition at the gender distribution within decision categories. As a reminder, table 18 shows that 26 percent of submitting authors are female and 68 percent male. In comparison a slightly lower share of manuscripts submitted by female authors (22 percent) and a slightly higher share submitted by male scholars (73 percent) is accepted for publication. Again, the causes might be many but this discrepancy is reason enough to monitor acceptance rates and look further into these outcomes.

Table 20: Editor decisions by gender, % within decision categories

Gender	Accept	Reject for Audience	Summary Reject	Reject with Reviews
Female	21.8%	24.4%	23.1%	27.6%
Male	73.1%	62.2%	70.0%	64.7%
Other	5.1%	13.3%	6.9%	7.7%

Finally, we have a look at decisions for different teams of authors. Table 21 shows that articles written by mixed and female teams have a higher probability of getting accepted and a lower probability of being desk rejected than those written by a single male or female author and also groups of male scholars. This is encouraging, but the reasons remain unclear. For example, single authors are typically more junior etc.

Table 21: Acceptance and Rejection rates by gender, within gender category

Decision	Single Male	Single Female	Single Other	Group Male	Group Female	Group Other	Group Mixed
Accept	6.2%	5.0%	0.0%	14.2%	16.7%	25.0%	16.3%
Reject for Audience	10.2%	10.0%	22.7%	2.6%	5.6%	0.0%	2.9%
Reject with Reviews	33.2%	41.3%	22.7%	45.2%	61.1%	50.0%	45.0%
Summary Reject	50.4%	43.8%	54.5%	38.1%	16.7%	25.0%	35.9%

The data we are collecting will provide ample opportunity to monitor the editorial process, devise strategies to counter underrepresentation and investigate potential reasons for editorial outcomes.

10 Social Media Report

This section reports on the social media activity on the JOPs Twitter account (@The_JOP) and the JOP blog (<https://jop.blogs.uni-hamburg.de>).

Twitter Statistics

The active use of the Twitter account started in late April (visible in engagement and impressions table). The main goals were to expand the journals impact and promote papers in order to reach a broader audience. The Twitter account @The_JOP now has more than 10,6k followers. The profile is visited by more than 5000 people every month.

Overview

We achieved the following since April:

- 1569 new followers
- 59.855 profile visits
- Over 644k tweet impressions

Since April, we posted 71 tweets in total. As visible in Table 22, the posting activity in May and June was very high and has leveled off to a constant 5-10 tweets per months. Additionally to posting about manuscripts in the “Just Accepted” and “Ahead of Print” categories on the JOP website, we also featured tweets promoting new blogposts.

Table 22: Twitter monthly summary

Month	Tweets	Tweet impressions	Profile visits	Mentions	New followers
April 2021	2	74.3K	4737	92	139
May 2021	12	270K	7119	212	235
June 2021	20	68.4K	9300	182	218
July 2021	5	66.2K	7911	94	116
August 2021	4	11.1K	5626	204	107
September 2021	9	51.1K	7505	160	191
October 2021	8	56.5K	6742	134	221
November 2021	6	21.5K	5432	61	179
December 2021	5	25.1K	5483	138	163

Engagements and Impressions

The heightened engagements and impressions in January followed from the announcement of the new guidelines (pre-registration, replication, ethical considerations) and the new editorship and following retweets and discussion around those topics. The jump in engagements and impressions in February (visible on table 9 and 10) was result of the message from the editors on addition of a Political Theory editor.

After almost no engagements and impressions over the month of March and April, the

JOP Twitter account received attention again, when the social media team started their work in late April.

We posted on accepted manuscripts continuously over May and June. The fewer responses in July can be attributed to the JOP summer hiatus and general summer break.

The JOP Blog was started in September. In the following weeks we featured approximately 2 blogposts per week and switched between posting on "Just Accepted" manuscripts and blog posts.

Figure 9: Twitter engagements over time

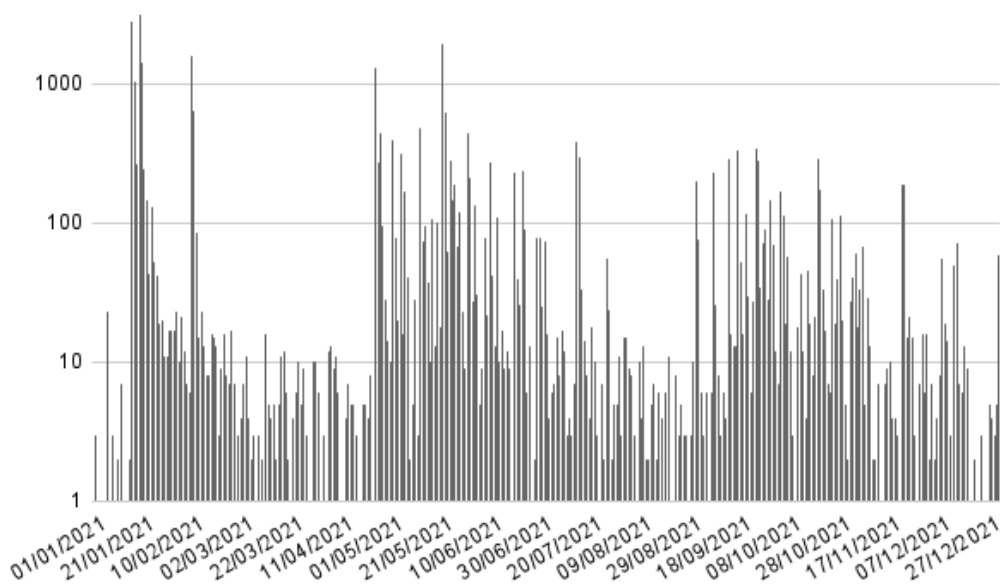
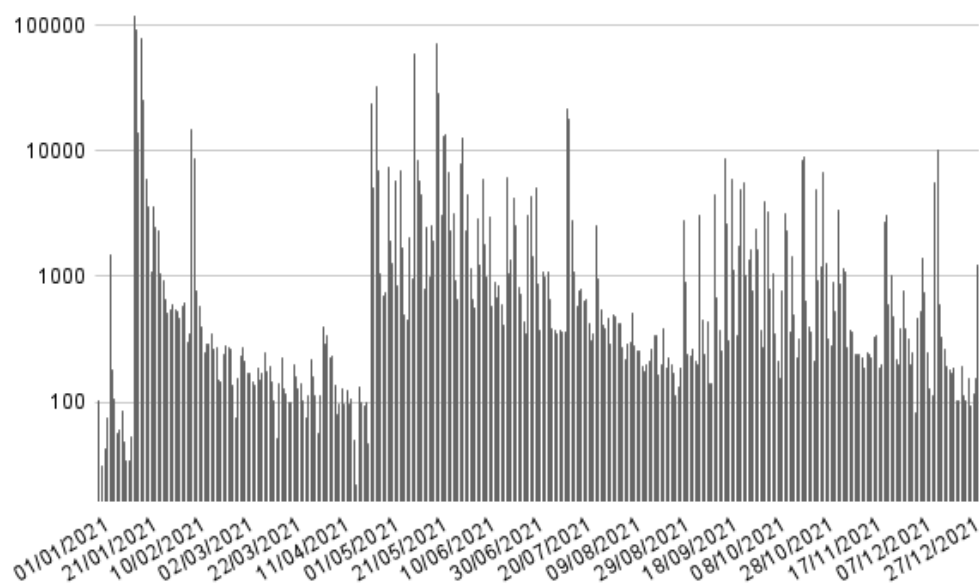


Figure 10: Twitter impressions over time



Blog Statistics

The main goal of the JOP Blog is to expand the impact of research published in the JOP and to render political science research more accessible for people beyond academia. Therefore, we ask authors to write an easily comprehensible and engaging blog post and to explain technical terms where necessary. The blog posts should not merely summarize the manuscripts but ideally connect to current political, societal and economic debates.

The JOP Blog was started in late September 2021. Since then, we had 5,828 page visits. Most users are from the United States (486), Germany (81), the United Kingdom (71) and Denmark (40). The hits for the single blogposts vary significantly (from 43-500), which is also due to the Blog just having been started in September. The first two blogposts are the ones with the least hits. We observe that discrimination topics are very important to our blog readers. The two blogposts with the most hits (500 and 323 respectively) deal with discrimination against immigrants and women in governing positions.(see Table 23).

When we started the Blog, we invited authors of "Just Accepted" manuscripts via email to ask if they would be interested in writing a blog piece on their research. We approached these authors first, to ensure that manuscripts that are available on the website but not yet published in an issue to receive as much attention as possible. The feedback we received was so positive that we are featuring more blogposts each month than originally planned.

In December 2021 we started to invite authors that will have their manuscripts published in the first JOP edition of 2022 to expand their impact and audience. These blogposts will be featured in January and February 2022.

Figure 11: Hit Statistics

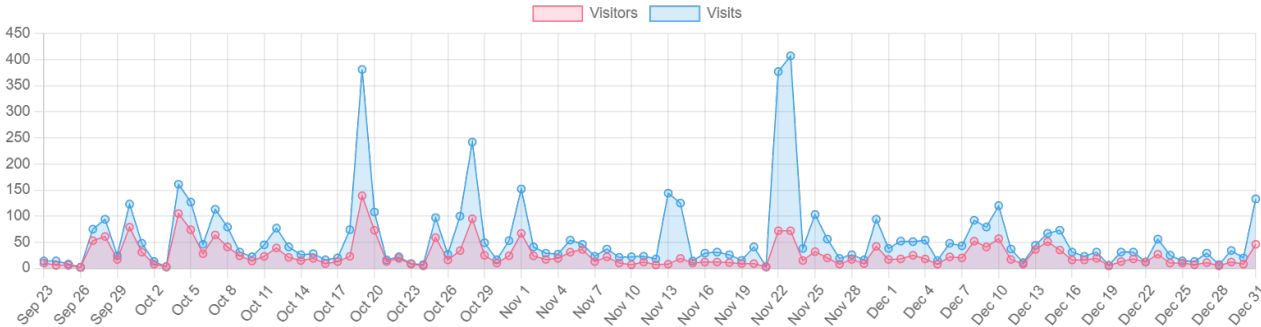


Figure 12: Blog visitors by country

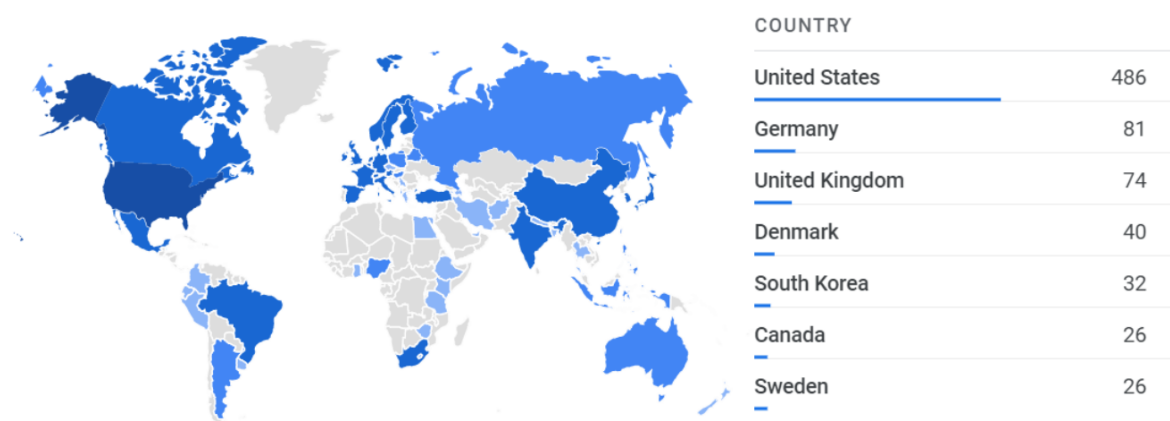


Table 23: Blogpost titles and hits

Title	Hits
Do Politicians Discriminate Against Constituents with an Immigration Background?	500
Do Voters Discriminate Against Women Running for Office?	323
Audits strengthen electoral accountability in South Africa —	283
Do Major-Power Interventions Encourage the Onset of Civil Conflict? —	238
Would Helping the Poor Benefit Everybody?	237
The Morning After: Minister Purges after Failed Coup Attempts in Dictatorships	196
The Missionary Roots of Nationalism	185
Home-price subsidies increase local-level political participation in urban India —	166
Like parent, like child: both social and genetic factors account for parent-child similarities in voter turnout	132
Strategic Power Sharing: Commitment, Capability, and Authoritarian Survival —	132
Fighting Propaganda with Censorship	120
Why Consolidating Executive Budgetary Powers Benefitted Both the President and Congress	118
Agricultural comparative advantage explains US legislators' support for trade agreements	116
Due Diligence: How Irreversibility Risks Shape Senate Delay in the Confirmation of U.S. Federal Executive Nominees	114
How Petitioning is Linked to the Origins and Development of Standing Committees	111
How Humiliation Motivates War	103
Partisan Enclaves and Information Bazaars: Mapping Selective Exposure to Online News	68
Ballot order effects may not be driven by voters alone	63
Can Competition for Migrants Limit Backsliding?	43

11 Replication

As suggested in the editorial proposal, we have started to replicate empirical analyses to increase transparency and adhere to DART and open sciences principles. We have hired a data analyst to carry out these replications. Authors of manuscripts already accepted by the previous team were given the option to have their analyses replicated. For all manuscripts submitted since January 2021 replication is compulsory.

A summary of replication activity in 2021 is shown below:

From January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, 104 papers have been replicated. 40 percent of the papers were replicated without any major or minor problems. The remaining 60 percent had some problems - sometimes minor, sometimes major. We collected more detailed data for papers replicated since June 2021. Some descriptive statistics on date, quality, and field of the replicated analyses are provided below.

In total, 63 papers were replicated from June 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. Figure 13 shows the monthly number of replicated papers. On average, 9 papers were replicated per month. The largest number of papers were replicated in December (13 papers).

Figure 13: Monthly number of replicated papers

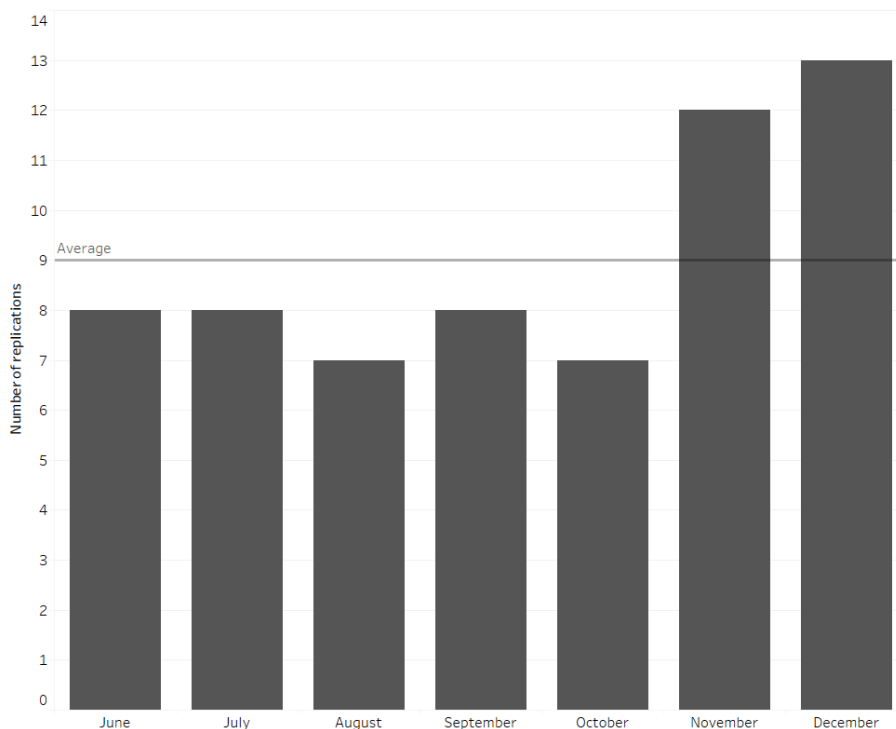


Table 24 presents information on the number of replicated papers across subfields. Most empirical papers replicated come from American and Comparative politics, each make up 41 percent of the replicated papers. International relations papers account for the remaining 18 percent.

Table 24: Number of replications across fields

Subfield	Number of replication	Percentage
American Politics	26	41%
Comparative Politics	26	41%
International Relations	11	18%

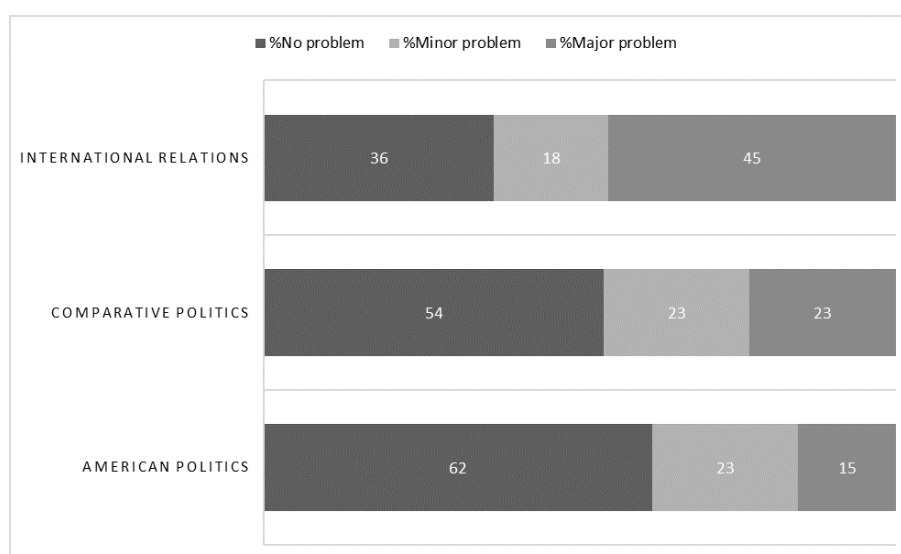
Table 25 provides statistics on the quality of papers. 54 percent of the replicated papers did not have any issues in terms of code, comment statements, or submitted materials, 22 percent of the paper had minor problems, such as not including required packages in the replication file or a very limited number of errors in syntax. Also, 24 percent of the papers had major problems, such as the lack of comment statements, a large number of errors in syntax, or mismatch between the original and replicated results.

Table 25: Quality of papers

Category	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	34	54%
Minor Problem	14	22%
Major Problem	15	24%

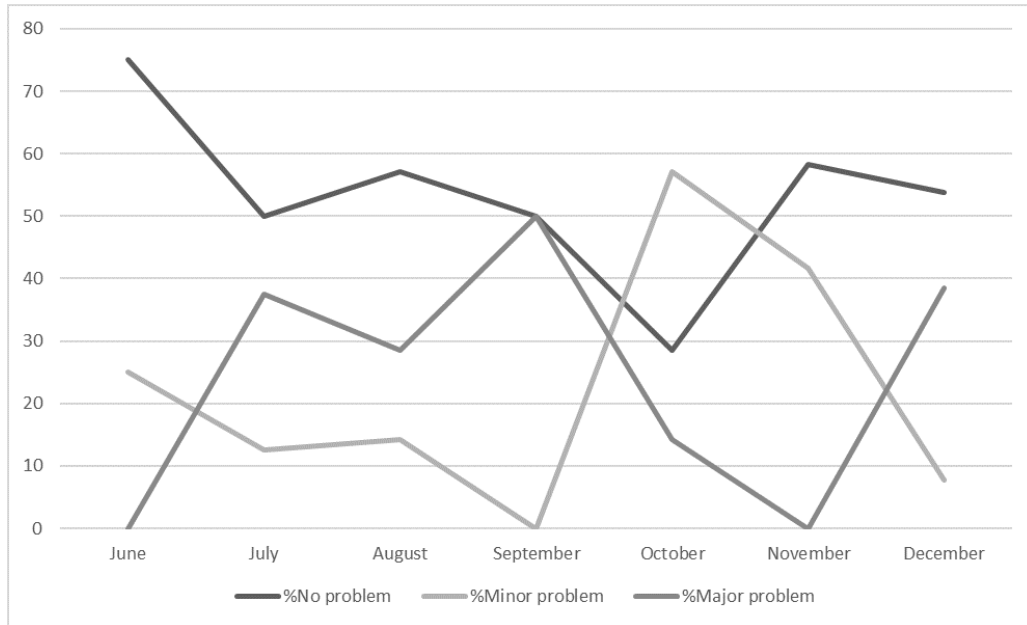
The quality of replication materials varies across fields. 62 percent of replication materials of American Politics manuscripts were without issues, 54 percent of Comparative Politics papers, and only 36 percent of International Relations manuscripts.

Figure 14: Quality of papers across fields



Finally, figure 15 provides a descriptive time series graph for the quality of replicated papers. It is difficult to identify a meaningful and consistent pattern because of the limited time period. Subsequent years will reveal whether replication increases the quality of replication materials.

Figure 15: Quality of replicated papers over time



12 Editorial Board

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13 Appendix

Table 26: Gender and Region distribution of corresponding authors

Subfield	Male							
	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Other
American Politics - Behavior	1.6%	5.5%	1.6%	1.6%	89.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
American Politics - Institutions	4.3%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	82.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	14.9%	49.4%	6.0%	0.6%	23.8%	2.4%	1.8%	1.2%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	21.2%	37.2%	10.6%	1.8%	23.9%	3.5%	0.9%	0.9%
Formal Theory and Methodology	10.4%	25.0%	6.3%	4.2%	39.6%	8.3%	0.0%	6.3%
International Relations	17.5%	21.6%	2.1%	3.1%	47.4%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0%
Political Theory	11.7%	27.3%	2.6%	6.5%	33.8%	6.5%	10.4%	1.3%
N/A	25.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	25.0%	12.5%	0.0%

Subfield	Female						
	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	South Asia	Other
American Politics - Behavior	3.1%	18.5%	0.0%	1.5%	72.3%	1.5%	3.1%
American Politics - Institutions	12.5%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	62.5%	4.2%	4.2%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	13.0%	42.0%	4.3%	1.4%	33.3%	4.3%	1.4%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	13.2%	39.5%	10.5%	0.0%	34.2%	2.6%	0.0%
Formal Theory and Methodology	12.5%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
International Relations	9.1%	25.0%	0.0%	2.3%	61.4%	0.0%	2.3%
Political Theory	10.0%	65.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	5.0%
N/A	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%

Subfield	Other					
	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	Other
American Politics - Behavior	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.0%	10.0%
American Politics - Institutions	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	66.7%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	0.0%	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%	46.2%	30.8%
Formal Theory and Methodology	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%
International Relations	14.3%	28.6%	0.0%	14.3%	42.9%	0.0%
Political Theory	7.7%	15.4%	0.0%	7.7%	30.8%	38.5%
N/A	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 27: Editor decisions by gender and nationality

Male								
Decision Term	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	South Asia	Sub-Saharan Africa	Other
Accept - Final Files Received	5.3%	24.6%	3.5%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Reject for Audience	3.6%	25.0%	0.0%	14.3%	39.3%	10.7%	3.6%	3.6%
Reject with Reviews	11.9%	26.5%	5.4%	1.1%	50.8%	2.2%	0.5%	1.6%
Summary Reject	17.7%	23.6%	3.9%	3.4%	42.9%	2.5%	4.4%	1.5%
Female								
Decision Term	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	South Asia	Other	
Accept - Final Files Received	5.9%	17.6%	5.9%	0.0%	64.7%	5.9%	0.0%	
Reject for Audience	36.4%	45.5%	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	
Reject with Reviews	7.6%	32.9%	0.0%	1.3%	55.7%	1.3%	1.3%	
Summary Reject	10.4%	44.8%	1.5%	3.0%	32.8%	4.5%	3.0%	
Other								
Decision Term	East Asia & Pacific	Europe & Central Asia	Latin America & Caribbean	Middle East & North Africa	North America	Other		
Accept - Final Files Received	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%		
Reject for Audience	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%		
Reject with Reviews	4.5%	9.1%	4.5%	4.5%	31.8%	45.5%		
Summary Reject	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	5.0%	60.0%	25.0%		