



## The Journal of Politics

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

January 2024

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This annual report from the Lead Editor of the Journal of Politics (JOP) to the Editorial Board, the Executive Council of the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), and the scholarly community covers the workings of the JOP and operations in the editorial offices at the University of Hamburg during 2023.

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 this leadership and data on social media exposure, as well as replication of empirical analyses.

# 1 Introduction

Since January 2021, a team of editors under the lead of Vera E. Troeger (Universität Hamburg) is editing the JOP. The team has now finished three-quarters of its editorial term, and this report summarizes the editorial activities of the third year.

2023 marked a difficult year for the JOP after returning to a more balanced and normal working routine after dealing with the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and some changes to the editorial team and the editorial staff at Universität Hamburg. 2023 was also marked by health issues of the lead editors that caused some delays in the editorial process. The editorial team worked very hard in 2023. Besides the day-to-day editing work, we collected and analyzed new data on author and reviewer diversity. The lead editor and the current and former editorial assistants and media editors, Jessica Haak and Ilayda Yücel, prepared a working paper on gender diversity and bias in the JOP editorial process that will be presented at the SPSA annual conference in January 2024.

In addition, the editorial team and board decided on a trial period for registered reports starting in January 2023 until September 2023 to ensure that all registered reports submitted during this trial will receive a final decision by the end of the term of the current editorial team. We are very happy that we could win Alexander Wuttke (LMU Munich and JOP editorial board member), who has tremendous expertise regarding pre-analysis plans and registered reports, as the special editor for this new article format. Alexander Wuttke, together with Ilayda Yücel (Universität Hamburg), has worked tirelessly to collect best practices from other such trials and to generate guidelines as well as editorial procedures to implement the proposal successfully. We have also worked with UCP (The University of Chicago Press) to adapt the Editorial Manager System to accommodate the editorial process of the new article format. We will observe this trial closely and have registered a pre-analysis plan to analyze the success of publishing registered reports. We will present the results in future editorial reports.

To ensure that both authors and reviewers are well prepared for submitting and evaluating registered reports, we conducted several online workshops led by Alexander Wuttke and other experts in the field. On November 23rd, 2022, we held the first Registered Report Workshop aimed at prospective authors which 200 people attended. Bert Baker (Associate Professor for Good Research Practices at the University of Amsterdam) joined this workshop to give insights about his registered report review experience. Chris Chambers (Head of Brain Stimulation at Cardiff; Co-founder and chair of the Registered Reports Committee supported by the Center for Open Science) led the QA Sessions for both of the workshops. We held a reviewer workshop on January 10, 2023 with 50 people attending. Edmund Malesky (Professor of Political Economy at Duke University) shared his experience in reviewing registered reports. The new format, the trial, and the workshops were very well received by the community. In order to generate attention to this new article format in the discipline, we ran a social media campaign and more than one thousand scholars signed up to become registered report reviewers. More information on registered reports is presented below in section 12.

In 2021, we introduced replication (reproduction) of empirical analyses to increase transparency and keep up with developments of DART and Open Science. Our new replication analyst Alejandra López Villegas, Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State University (MSU), is doing a very diligent and tremendous job, which has generated a lot of positive feedback

from the authors. A replication report is shown below. Replication has been received quite positively by authors who submitted their work to the JOP. Our experience so far does not indicate that replication analyses add substantive time to the editorial process, since they are 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 was 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 with this requirement. We have therefore formed a working group (led by Alexander Wuttke, LMU Munich) to refine this policy and provide clear guidance to submitting authors.

Finally, in order to increase the visibility and impact of work published in the JOP, we launched a social media campaign in early 2021 and also started the JOP Blog on recently accepted manuscripts featuring research and discussions on current topics relevant to politics and society. The blog has been very well received by authors of papers that have just been accepted by the JOP, and the blog posts received a lot of attention on X (formerly Twitter) and Bluesky. A report on these activities is presented below.

## 2 Impact and Importance

The editorial team seeks to maximize the impact and influence of articles published in the JOP both within political science as a discipline as well as across social and behavioral sciences more broadly. Consistent 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 assess 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

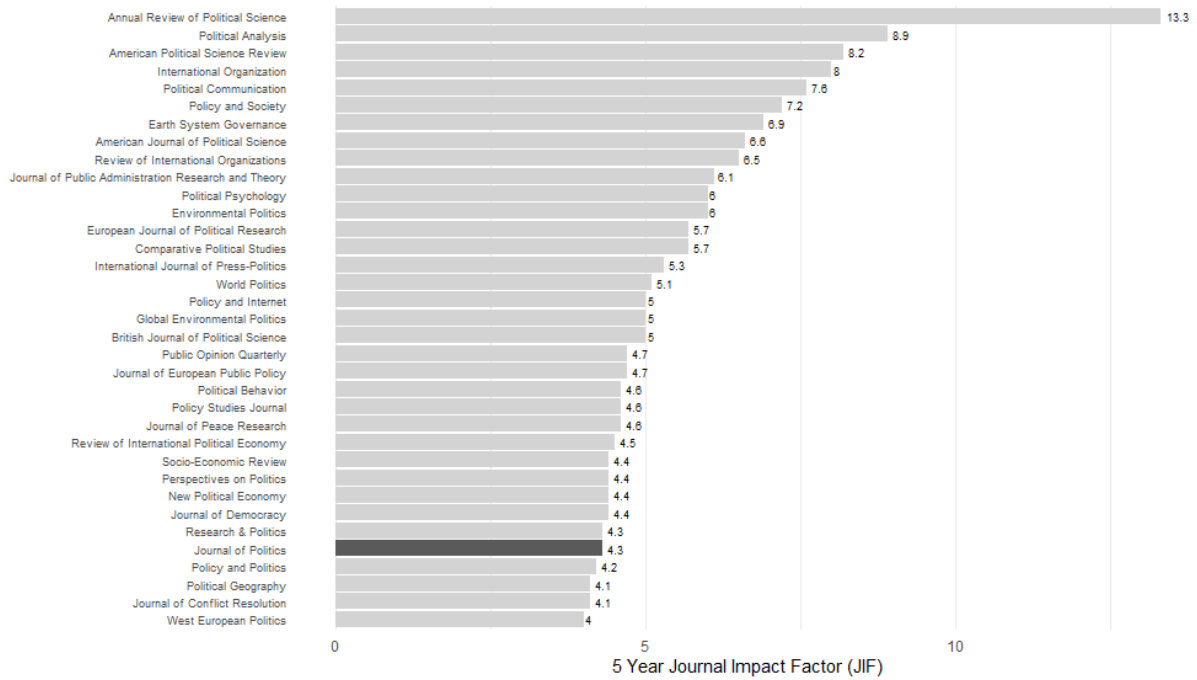
The 2022 five-year impact factor for the Journal is 4.3 - a slight decrease as compared to 2021, when it was 4.48. The Journal is currently ranked 45 out of the 187 political science journals indexed in the Web of Science, which reflects a slight loss compared to the previous years when it was ranked 38 and 30.

Thus, the overall impact of the Journal slightly decreased according to the five-year impact factor, and this also resulted in a relative loss as compared to other journals in political science. This is somewhat disappointing, especially since we launched a massive social media initiative. However, much of this can be attributed to the need to cope with the backlog of accepted articles by publishing three super-sized issues in 2021. This massive increase in the number of published articles negatively affects the calculation of the impact factor, and we hope that an improvement will be realized when we receive the 2023 numbers. In 2022, we returned to normal size issues, and we also expect the initiated activities on social media and the blog to have increased visibility of published research in the JOP. Nevertheless, this development is very disappointing, and we will need to think about and discuss the causes of this outcome further in order to help improve the standing of the JOP based on this metric because it does not reflect its reputation amongst scholars in the discipline.

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<sup>1</sup>The data for the year 2022 is the latest available in the Web of Science database.

Figure 1: Five-Year Journal Impact Factor (2022), Political Science

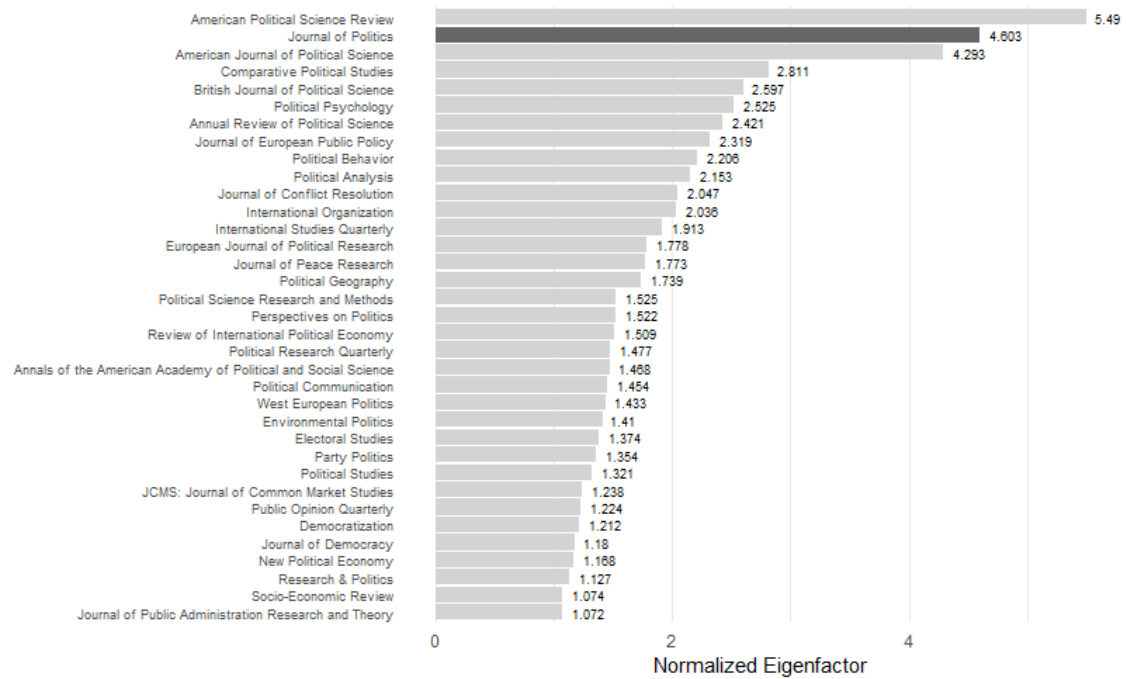


A potentially more revealing but less popular assessment of the JOP’s influence in the field can be seen in the JOP’s Article Influence score, which is arguably a more robust measure of impact given that it accounts for the significance of where the citations occur rather than just the pure citation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

The Eigenfactor score reflects the density of the network of citations around the journal using five years of cited content as cited by 2022. It considers both the number of citations and the source of those citations so that highly cited sources will influence the network more than less cited sources. It does not include journal self-citations. The JOP’s Eigenfactor score for 2022 is 0.02115 and thereby shows a slight increase to 2021 (0.02088). Again, we attribute this to the massive increase in the number of published articles due to the need to cope with the backlog. The Journal still ranks second out of all political science journals. Figure 2 shows the normalized Eigenfactor score rankings, which rescale the total number of journals each year so that the average journal has a score of 1.

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 less 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.

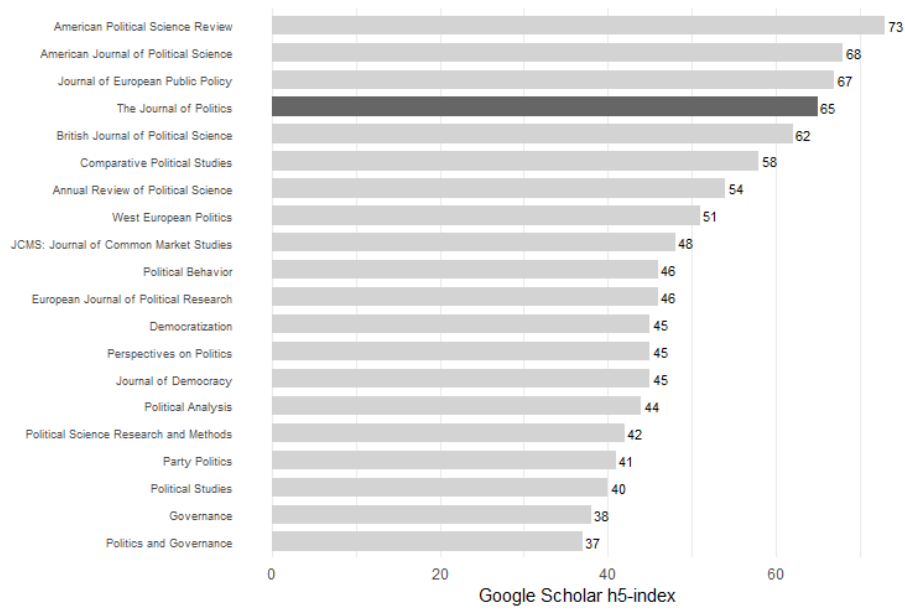
Figure 2: Normalized Eigenfactor (2022), Political Science



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 65 (slightly up from previously 60), which indicates that 65 articles published in the Journal have been cited at least 65 times during the past five years. The JOP still ranks fourth among all journals in the discipline on Google Scholar’s metric for influence.

These positive developments of the Eigenfactor and the Google Scholar h5 index are rather encouraging and we need to find a way to reflect this influence and significance of articles published in the JOP also in its 5-year impact factor. Obviously, the JOP publishes many articles that are received very well by the community and are cited in other important journals of the discipline. In contrast, the JOP seems to also accept and publish too many articles overall (the denominator of the 5-year impact factor) and among the published articles there are still too many that do get few citations or none at all. From our perspective, in order to change this, it would imply a strategic decision on the breadth of articles the JOP publishes with potential impacts on its diversity regarding sub-fields and topics. We will discuss potential strategies with the SPSA leadership but some of these decisions will have to be taken by the next editorial team.

Figure 3: Google Scholar h5 Index Values (2022), Political Science



Overall, we can observe a stable position of the JOP in terms of different impact measures with a slight upward trajectory. The presented numbers refer to the year 2022 - only the second year of the current team in which we had to cope with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and struggled with accommodating a much larger number of accepted articles than previously expected. We anticipate that this upward trend will manifest itself more strongly in 2023 and the last year of our editorial term.

### 3 Content Usage

Downloadable statistics detailing the citation and usage of JOP content in 2023 are included in the University of Chicago Press Report, to be provided by Kari Roane (Director, Journals Acquisitions and Publisher, UCP).



## 4 Original Manuscript Submission

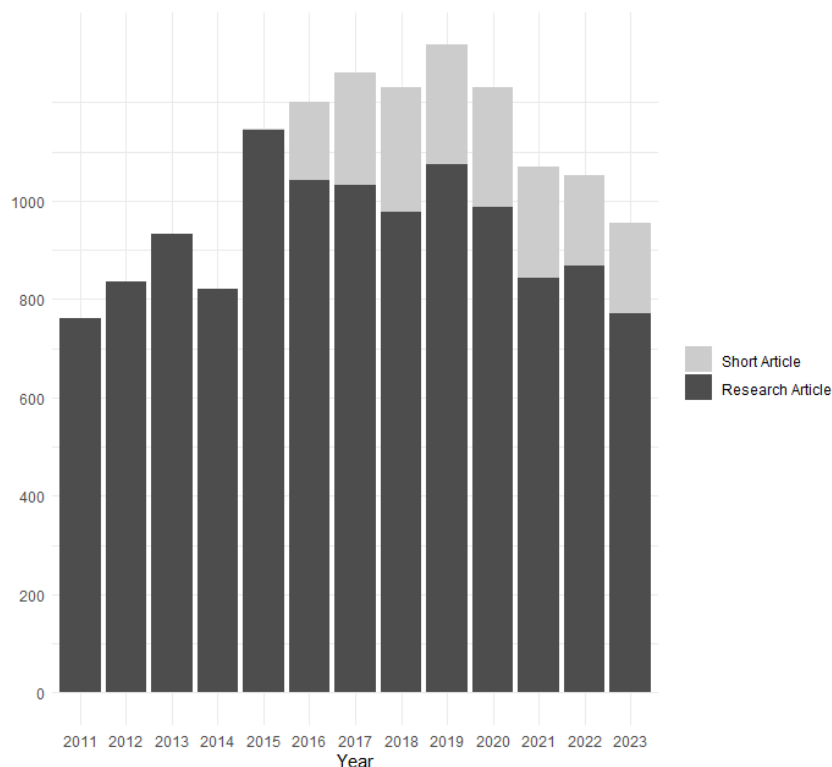
Table 1 below displays information on the total number of manuscript submissions by year from 2011-2023. Note that the short article format was only introduced in 2016. For the calendar year 2023, the Journal received 954 submissions (until December 18, 2023) - 772 full-length research articles and 182 submissions in the newer short article format. There is a decrease in research article submissions compared to 2022, and the submission numbers are almost the same in short article format. The latter format remains a popular way to communicate research results to the community.

The number of submissions is still somewhat lower than in previous years (with a maximum of 1317 submissions in 2019). At this point, we can only speculate about the reasons for this moderate decline. We believe that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ability to conduct research (especially field-research) is still affecting the number of submissions. In addition, the increased desk rejection rate and the implemented requirements of pre-analysis plans and replication might have diverted some submissions. Our analysis of “desk rejection” and “rejection with reviews” decisions seems to support the hunch that lower-quality manuscripts that would not make it through the rigorous review process are submitted less frequently.

Table 1: Manuscripts submitted to the JOP by year

Article Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Research Article</b>	761	836	933	822	1145	1041	1031	978	1075	987	844	868	772
<b>Short Article</b>	0	0	0	0	1	161	229	254	242	243	226	184	182
<b>Total</b>	761	836	933	822	1146	1202	1260	1232	1317	1230	1070	1052	954

Figure 4: Total manuscripts submitted by article type (2011-2023)



## 5 Submission Rates by Sub-field

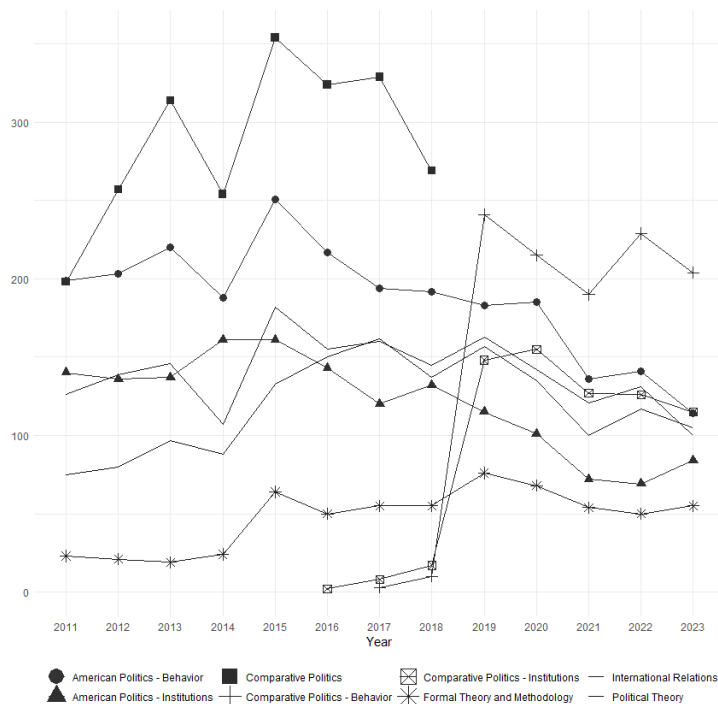
Submission rates of research articles to the JOP from 2011-2023 broken down by sub-field are presented in Figure 5. The sub-field category is initially selected by the submitting author who can choose from 8 categories. The Journal office and lead editor are checking these before the lead editor decides on assigning a ms. to a handling editor with expertise in the specific sub-field, 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.

Compared to 2022, we observe a mostly stable distribution of submissions across sub-fields with a slight increase in American Politics - Institutions, and a slight decrease in International Relations. The modal category for full-length research article submissions in 2023 - as in the year before - was Comparative Politics - Behavior, followed by American Politics - Behavior. However, slightly more full-length articles in 2023 were submitted in Political Theory than in International Relations.

Table 2: Submission of research articles by sub-field and year

Sub-field	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
American Politics - Behavior	199	203	220	188	251	217	194	192	183	185	136	141	114
American Politics - Institutions	140	136	137	161	161	143	120	132	115	101	72	69	84
Comparative Politics	198	257	314	254	354	324	329	269	-	-	-	-	-
Comparative Politics - Behavior	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	241	215	190	229	204
Comparative Politics - Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	17	148	155	127	126	115
Formal Theory and Methodology	23	21	19	24	64	50	55	76	68	54	50	55	50
International Relations	126	139	146	107	182	155	160	145	163	142	121	131	100
Political Theory	75	80	97	88	133	150	162	137	157	135	100	117	105
N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>1145</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>1031</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>772</b>

Figure 5: Research articles submitted to the JOP by sub-field (2011-2023)



We continue 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 but submission numbers reduced slightly compared with previous years. Exceptions are Comparative Politics-Behavior and Formal Theory and Methodology. The overall number of new short article submissions decreased slightly from 2022 to 2023. The additional information provided in Figure 6 indicates that the short article format is most popular in 2023 among authors submitting articles in Comparative and American Politics - Behavior, since day-to-day political events play an important role in these fields.

Table 3: Submission of short articles by sub-field and year

Sub-field	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
American Politics - Behavior	61	88	102	72	72	49	54	53
American Politics - Institutions	27	40	28	31	25	24	23	18
Comparative Politics	39	46	55	-	-	-	-	-
Comparative Politics - Behavior	-	-	6	64	59	62	47	54
Comparative Politics - Institutions	-	1	4	20	27	28	20	16
Formal Theory and Methodology	14	16	19	18	16	13	5	9
International Relations	11	29	32	32	27	25	27	25
Political Theory	9	9	8	5	17	10	8	-
N/A	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>182</b>

Figure 6: Short articles submitted to the JOP by sub-field (2016-2023)

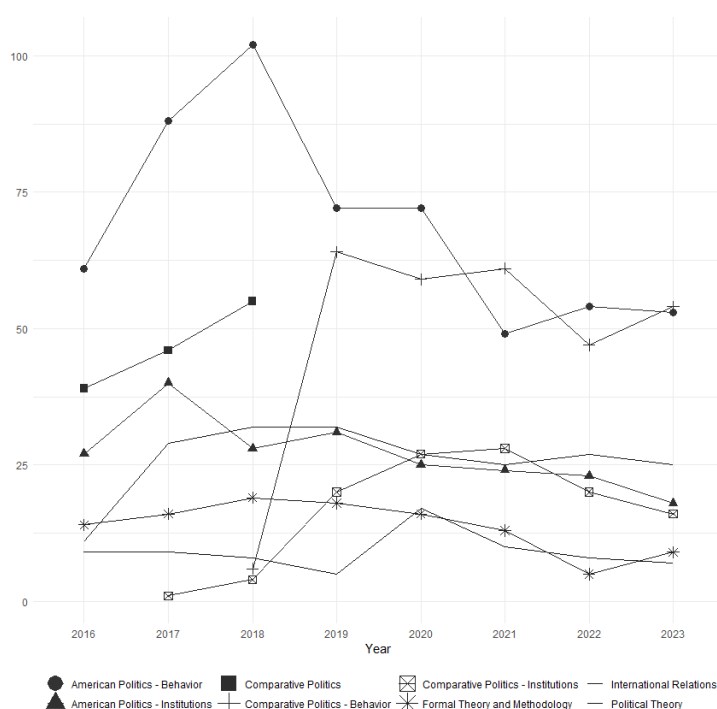


Table 4: Percentage of total manuscript submissions by sub-field

Year	American Politics - Behavior		American Politics - Institutions		Comparative Politics		Comparative Politics - Behavior		Comparative Politics - Institutions		Formal Theory and Methodology		International Relations		Political Theory		Total
2011	199	26.1%	140	18.4%	198	26.0%	-	-	-	-	23	3.0%	126	16.6%	75	9.9%	761
2012	203	24.3%	136	16.3%	257	30.7%	-	-	-	-	21	2.5%	139	16.6%	80	9.6%	836
2013	221	23.7%	137	14.7%	314	33.6%	-	-	-	-	19	2.0%	146	15.6%	97	10.4%	934
2014	188	22.9%	161	19.6%	254	30.9%	-	-	-	-	24	2.9%	107	13.0%	88	10.7%	822
2015	252	22.0%	161	14.0%	354	30.9%	-	-	-	-	64	5.6%	182	15.9%	133	11.6%	1146
2016	278	23.1%	170	14.1%	363	30.2%	-	-	2	0.2%	64	5.3%	166	13.8%	159	13.2%	1202
2017	284	22.5%	161	12.7%	375	29.6%	3	0.2%	9	0.7%	71	5.6%	189	14.9%	173	13.7%	1265
2018	298	23.7%	176	14.0%	324	25.7%	16	1.3%	21	1.7%	96	7.6%	183	14.5%	146	11.6%	1260
2019	259	19.5%	148	11.2%	-	-	305	23.0%	168	12.7%	86	6.5%	195	14.7%	164	12.4%	1325
2020	258	20.9%	126	10.2%	-	-	274	22.2%	183	14.9%	70	5.7%	169	13.7%	152	12.3%	1232
2021	185	18.4%	96	9.5%	-	-	251	25.0%	155	15.4%	63	6.3%	146	14.5%	110	10.9%	1006
2022	195	18.5%	92	8.7%	-	-	276	26.2%	146	13.9%	60	5.7%	158	15.0%	125	11.9%	1052
2023	176	17.8%	105	10.6%	-	-	268	27.1%	132	13.3%	62	6.3%	134	13.5%	113	11.4%	990
Total	2996	21.7%	1809	13.1%	2439	17.6%	1393	10.1%	816	5.9%	723	5.2%	2040	14.7%	1615	11.7%	13831

The distribution of original manuscripts as a percentage of total new submissions broken down by sub-field for each year from 2011-2023 can be seen in Table 4 below. The representation of sub-fields has remained relatively stable over the thirteen years reflected here, with the primary exception of Formal Theory & Methodology which saw a slight peak in the middle of the decade and again slightly increased in 2023. 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% in 2011 to over 40% in 2023. In contrast, the percentage of new submissions from American Politics (American Politics - Behavior and American Politics - Institutions) has fallen by roughly 16 percentage points since 2011. The slight changes in submission shares in the different sub-fields from 2021 to 2023 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.

## 6 Turnaround Times

Statistics regarding the editorial management of new manuscripts appear in Table 5. We present here a comparison with turnaround times in 2022. Health issues of the lead editors and changes in the composition of the editorial team, as well as the editorial staff, have prolonged some of the editorial processes. This applies especially to the assignment of a ms. to a handling editor since this is done by the lead editor. In addition, the change in staff and the additional requirements for submitting authors to provide information on all collaborators, which is important for evaluating and analysing potential biases and diversity issues in the editorial process, has increased the time necessary for conducting technical checks. However, in 2023, the submission to the first decision process has significantly improved. First decisions on mss. are issued on average after 71 days. This meets our expectations formulated in the last annual report since the backlog has been dealt with, the 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. The different internal turnaround times also reflect the changed editorial process where manuscripts are not automatically assigned to a field editor according to the sub-field 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 (2022-2023)

Assignment	Number of Days 2022	Number of Days 2023
Manuscript submission to technical check complete	3.6	4.4
Technical check complete to editor assignment	9.8	16.6
Manuscript submission to editor assignment	12.5	20.2
Manuscript submission to first reviewer invitation	28	32.9
Submission to First Decision	87.4	71

## 7 Editorial Decisions

In 2023, the JOP editorial team rendered 760 decisions on manuscripts (until December 18, 2023; many more were taken toward the end of the year). Statistics regarding these decisions appear for initial submissions in the table below. Table 6 shows the total numbers and percentage of accepted and rejected manuscripts by our team. In 2021, we had to implement a very strict rejection policy to accommodate a higher number of previous acceptances. The overall acceptance rate in 2022 has increased compared to 2021 but slightly decreased again in 2023. This is due to a number of factors: We could accept a few more manuscripts in 2022 and 2023 because our strict rejection policy had reduced the number of articles that needed to be allocated to journal issues. In addition, the higher desk rejection rate dissuaded the submission of low-quality research.

Table 6: Accept and reject decisions made in 2021, 2022 and 2023

Editorial Decision	2021		2022		2023	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Accept	89	9.7	130	14.2	99	13
Reject	825	90.3	786	85.8	661	87
Total	914	100	916	100	760	100

Table 7 displays the editorial decisions that were rendered in 2023. In addition to Table 6, we include rejection categories and break down each category by sub-field. The acceptance rate is highest in Formal Theory & Methodology but with the lowest number of submissions in this field. American Politics submissions have the lowest acceptance rate, which reflects the very high number of submissions in this field. The editorial team regularly reviews and discusses these outcomes and assures similar standards for quality across sub-fields. Thus, these differences in the acceptance rates reflect varying average quality rather than bias. Nevertheless, we 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 sub-fields with Formal Theory & Methodology being on the lower side (this field has the lowest overall number of submissions). In Political Theory, we have a higher rate of rejections for audience, reflecting the fact that the associate editor has a better grip on what topics in this field are suitable for a general political science audience. More generally the numbers reflect that a higher desk rejection rate leads to a lower rate of rejections after the first round of reviews which indicates that on average we desk-reject manuscripts that would have been rejected by reviewers otherwise. This seems to be the right strategy also in order not to overburden our already over-worked reviewers.

For the above-mentioned reasons, the percentage of initially submitted manuscripts desk rejected by lead or associate editors increased from 31% in 2020 to 50% in 2021. In 2022 the desk rejection rate decreased to just over 40% and slightly decreased to 36% in 2023. This is in line with the editorial proposal submitted to the SPSA and the return to more normal operations after having dealt with the backlog and adding an editor for political theory to the team.

Table 7: Acceptance and rejection by sub-field, within sub-fields

Sub-field	Accept	Reject with Reviews	Summary Reject	Reject for Audience	Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	7 6.7%	60 57.7%	36 34.6%	1 1.0%	104
American Politics - Institutions	7 8.5%	40 48.8%	32 39.0%	3 3.7%	82
Comparative Politics - Behavior	30 15.0%	85 42.5%	84 42.0%	1 0.5%	200
Comparative Politics - Institutions	18 16.5%	45 41.3%	46 42.2%	0 0.0%	109
Formal Theory and Methodology	11 22.0%	26 52.0%	12 24.0%	1 2.0%	50
International Relations	18 14.3%	97 77.0%	11 8.7%	0 0.0%	126
Political Theory	8 9.0%	36 40.4%	38 42.7%	7 7.9%	89
Grand Total	99 13.0%	389 51.2%	259 34.1%	13 1.7%	760

Table 8: Acceptance and rejection by sub-field, within decision categories

Sub-field	Accept	Reject with Reviews	Summary Reject	Reject for Audience	Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	7.1%	15.4%	13.9%	7.7%	19.10%
American Politics - Institutions	7.1%	10.3%	12.4%	23.1%	8.20%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	30.3%	21.9%	32.4%	7.7%	24.72%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	18.2%	11.6%	17.8%	0.0%	12.02%
Formal Theory and Methodology	11.1%	6.7%	4.6%	7.7%	5.28%
International Relations	18.2%	24.9%	4.2%	0.0%	17.19%
Political Theory	8.1%	9.3%	14.7%	53.8%	13.48%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.00%

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. The rejection rate after reviewing went down from 55% in 2020 to 50% in 2021, 45% in 2022, and again increased to 51% in 2023, indicating that more editorial control over desk rejects filters out manuscripts that would have been rejected by reviewers anyway. The editorial decisions also roughly correspond to average reviewer recommendations displayed in Tables 9 (overall) and 10 as well as 11 (by sub-field). Of course, the handling editor in collaboration with the (deputy) lead editor(s) executes editorial judgment and control, and decisions are usually based on at least three reviewer recommendations.

The referees' recommendations on the manuscripts reviewed in 2023 are summarized in Table 9 below. Among the 2364 (2120 in 2022 and 1832 in 2021) completed reviews we received, 449 (19%, 16.1% in 2022, 14.2% in 2021) recommended acceptance; 582 (24.6%, 27.9% in 2022, 27.6% in 2021) recommended major revisions; 417 (17.6%, 18.7% in 2022, 17.8% in 2021) recommended minor revision; and 916 (38.7%, 37.3% in 2022, 40.4% in 2021) 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 stable reject recommendations further support our desk rejection policy.

Table 9: Reviewer recommendation summary

Reviewer Recommendation	Reviews Completed	Percentage
Accept	449	19.0%
Major Revision	582	24.6%
Minor Revision	417	17.6%
Reject	916	38.7%
Total	2364	100.0%

Table 10: Reviewer recommendations by sub-field (within sub-fields)

Sub-field	Accept		Major Revision		Minor Revision		Reject		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
American Politics - Behavior	59	14.3%	107	25.8%	76	18.4%	172	41.5%	414
American Politics - Institutions	54	21.4%	56	22.2%	46	18.3%	96	38.1%	252
Comparative Politics - Behavior	124	20.2%	148	24.1%	120	19.6%	221	36.1%	613
Comparative Politics - Institutions	96	26.9%	84	23.5%	59	16.5%	118	33.1%	357
Formal Theory and Methodology	38	19.8%	52	27.1%	40	20.8%	62	32.3%	192
International Relations	48	14.0%	89	25.9%	44	12.8%	162	47.2%	343
Political Theory	30	15.5%	46	23.8%	32	16.6%	85	44.0%	193
Grand Total	449	19.0%	582	24.6%	417	17.6%	916	38.7%	2364

Table 11: Reviewer recommendations by sub-field (within recommendation categories)

Sub-field	Accept		Major Revision		Minor Revision		Reject	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
American Politics - Behavior	59	13.1%	107	18.4%	76	18.2%	172	18.8%
American Politics - Institutions	54	12.0%	56	9.6%	46	11.0%	96	10.5%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	124	27.6%	148	25.4%	120	28.8%	221	24.1%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	96	21.4%	84	14.4%	59	14.1%	118	12.9%
Formal Theory and Methodology	38	8.5%	52	8.9%	40	9.6%	62	6.8%
International Relations	48	10.7%	89	15.3%	44	10.6%	162	17.7%
Political Theory	30	6.7%	46	7.9%	32	7.7%	85	9.3%
Grand Total	449	100.0%	582	100.0%	417	100.0%	916	100.0%



## 8 Reviewer Statistics

In 2023 the Journal editorial team issued invitations to 3765 (171 more than in 2022) potential individual reviewers (Table 12). Among the responses to these invitations, there were 2345 responses in the affirmative, 866 declines to review, and 554 (529 in 2022) of the invited reviewers did not even bother to respond to our invitation. Reviewer responses are distributed somewhat unevenly across sub-fields with invited reviewers in Political Theory and International Relations declining or not responding most frequently.

Reviewer fatigue is becoming more and more of an issue for the functioning of academic journals and heavily affects turnaround times. We need to start thinking of new ways to incentivize our academic colleagues to hand in timely and substantively relevant reviews. Within our very limited room of maneuver (we cannot offer monetary incentives), we have tried to increase responsiveness and compliance of reviewers by blacklisting reviewers who decline without giving any justification or those who do not even respond to invitations after having been contacted multiple times. In addition, we require all authors submitting manuscripts to the JOP to agree to submit at least 2 reviews in the following 2 years. Our new article format - registered reports - generated a massive wave of positive responses to the invitation to sign up as registered report reviewers. We hope that this will spark new interest - at least partially - in the review process.

Table 12: Reviewer responses by sub-field (within sub-fields)

Sub-field	Accepted		Declined		Not Responded		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
American Politics - Behavior	388	62.7%	142	22.9%	89	14.4%	619
American Politics - Institutions	248	64.9%	58	15.2%	76	19.9%	382
Comparative Politics - Behavior	623	66.8%	192	20.6%	118	12.6%	933
Comparative Politics - Institutions	356	68.1%	117	22.4%	50	9.6%	523
Formal Theory and Methodology	190	60.7%	79	25.2%	44	14.1%	313
International Relations	349	59.1%	121	20.5%	121	20.5%	591
Political Theory	191	47.3%	157	38.9%	56	13.9%	404
Grand Total	2345	62.3%	866	23.0%	554	14.7%	3765

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 (upcoming and past) deadlines. Some summary figures regarding the duration of the review process appear in Table 14. The average time for invited referees to respond to the review invitation was 2.5 days (2.5 in 2022). The good news is that once reviewers agree to evaluate a manuscript they do so on average within a month and the average time needed to complete a review has slightly improved as compared to 2022 (Table 14). 47.6% (50% in 2025) 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 sub-fields (Table 15).

Table 13: Reviewer responses by sub-field (within response categories)

Sub-field	Accepted		Decline		Not Responded	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
American Politics - Behavior	388	16.5%	142	16.4%	89	16.1%
American Politics - Institutions	248	10.6%	58	6.7%	76	13.7%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	623	26.6%	192	22.2%	118	21.3%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	356	15.2%	117	13.5%	50	9.0%
Formal Theory and Methodology	190	8.1%	79	9.1%	44	7.9%
International Relations	349	14.9%	121	14.0%	121	21.8%
Political Theory	191	8.1%	157	18.1%	56	10.1%
Grand Total	2345	100.0%	866	100.0%	554	100.0%

Table 14: Reviewer performance summary

Assignment	2022	2023
Average time for reviewer to respond to invitation	2.5	2.5
Average time for reviewer to complete review	32.2	31.6
Percentage of invited referees who submitted at least one review on time	50.0%	47.6%

Table 15: Reviewer performance summary by sub-field

Sub-field	Avg. time to respond to invitation		Avg. time to complete review		% on time reviewers	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
American Politics - Behavior	2.5	2.5	30	31.1	51.4%	46.9%
American Politics - Institutions	2.4	2.5	33.3	28.6	41.5%	48.8%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	2.3	2.7	32.4	31.6	43.0%	47.0%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	2.7	2.5	33.8	32	40.1%	45.1%
Formal Theory and Methodology	2.8	2.7	36	41.2	40.3%	38.5%
International Relations	2.6	1.7	31.5	28.4	46.0%	52.5%
Political Theory	2.6	2.8	28.1	32.4	56.6%	55.4%

## 9 Author Statistics

### Nationality and Ethnic Background

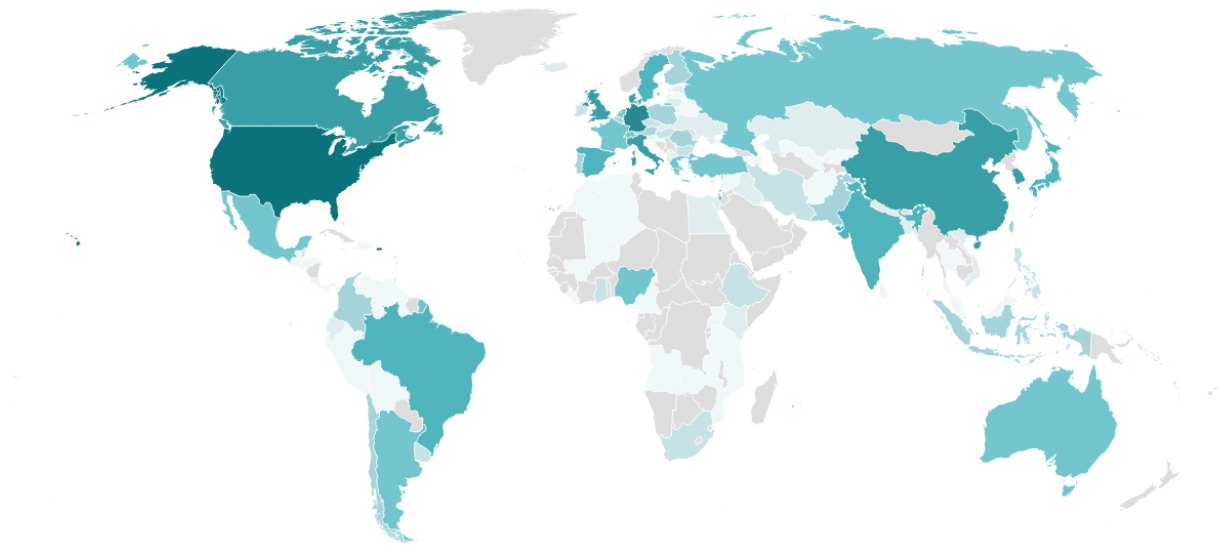
As promised in the editorial proposal, we started to gather more detailed data on the personal characteristics of authors submitting to the JOP. We start this report by presenting some descriptive statistics on the gender, nationality, and ethnic background of submitting authors and within author teams. As more data will be collected in subsequent years, we will be able to investigate trends but also potential reasons for under-representation and devise strategies to encourage and support underrepresented groups. To support this endeavor, we have created a working group on diversity. We also present the first results on gender diversity and bias in the JOP editorial process in a research paper at the 2024 SPSA annual conference.

Figure 7 displays the nationality of the 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 are Chinese or European (especially from Germany).

Figure 7: Nationality of corresponding authors based on self-identification

### Nationality of All Authors

< 5   5-10   10-20   20-40   40-80   80-120   120-280   280-460   ≥ 460



Source: The Journal of Politics (2023) • [Country and Datawrapper](#)

Tables 16 to 19 show the nationality and ethnic background of corresponding authors across different sub-fields. As expected, a larger share of authors in Comparative Politics come from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Authors in Political Theory have the most varied national backgrounds, while most scholars working in American Politics and International Relations submitting to the JOP come from North America. The diversity of ethnic and national backgrounds of authors has increased somewhat as compared to previous years.

Table 16: Nationality of all authors

Region	Number	%
North America	2662	45.9%
Europe and Central Asia	1792	31.0%
East Asia and Pacific	696	12.0%
Latin America and Caribbean	283	4.8%
South Asia	136	2.4%
Middle East and North Africa	138	2.4%
Sub-Saharan Africa	88	1.5%
Grand Total	6014	100.00%

Table 17: Nationality of corresponding authors by region

Sub-field	Region							
	East Asia & Pacific		Europe & Central Asia		Latin America & Caribbean		Middle East & North Africa	
American Politics - Behavior	32	6.0%	57	10.6%	7	1.3%	7	1.3%
American Politics - Institutions	15	5.2%	24	8.4%	2	0.7%	1	0.4%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	106	13.7%	364	46.9%	41	5.3%	14	1.8%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	81	19.1%	153	36.0%	38	8.9%	13	3.1%
Formal Theory and Methodology	25	14.0%	49	27.4%	15	8.4%	4	2.2%
International Relations	72	16.9%	100	23.4%	15	3.5%	15	3.5%
Political Theory	41	12.1%	115	33.8%	15	4.4%	21	6.2%
Grand Total	372	12.9%	862	30.0%	133	4.6%	75	2.6%

Sub-field	Region							
	North America		South Asia		Sub-Saharan Africa		Other	
American Politics - Behavior	411	76.5%	3	0.6%	2	0.4%	1	0.2%
American Politics - Institutions	231	80.8%	1	0.4%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	183	23.6%	26	3.4%	11	1.4%	2	0.3%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	105	24.7%	10	2.3%	5	1.2%	4	0.9%
Formal Theory and Methodology	69	38.5%	7	3.9%	2	1.1%	1	0.6%
International Relations	189	44.3%	18	4.2%	11	2.6%	-	0.0%
Political Theory	111	32.6%	9	2.6%	13	3.8%	2	0.6%
Grand Total	1299	45.2%	74	2.6%	46	1.6%	12	0.4%

Table 18: Ethnic background of all authors, based on self-declaration

Ethnicity	Number	%
European/Anglo White	3396	56.5%
Asian or Asian American	951	15.8%
Latinx	274	4.6%
Non-European/Non-Anglo White	197	3.3%
Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American	125	2.1%
Middle Eastern or Arab American	103	1.7%
Native American/First Nations/Indigenous Peoples	3	0.05%
Other	363	6.0%
Prefer not to answer	602	10.1%
Grand Total	6014	100.0%

Table 19: Ethnic background of corresponding authors, based on self-declaration

Sub-field	Asian or Asian American		Black, Afro-Caribbean, or African American		European/Anglo White		Latinx		Middle Eastern or Arab American	
	American Politics - Behavior	58	10.8%	15	2.8%	334	62.2%	27	5.0%	9
American Politics - Institutions	33	11.5%	6	2.1%	184	64.3%	7	2.5%	0	0.0%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	142	18.3%	11	1.4%	437	56.3%	30	3.9%	12	1.5%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	106	29.8%	6	1.4%	201	47.3%	33	7.8%	12	2.8%
Formal Theory and Methodology	33	18.4%	1	0.6%	97	55.2%	10	5.6%	1	1.1%
International Relations	97	22.7%	10	2.3%	204	47.8%	11	2.6%	18	4.2%
Political Theory	37	10.9%	16	4.7%	192	56.5%	12	3.5%	11	3.2%
Grand Total	506	17.0%	65	2.2%	1649	55.5%	130	4.4%	64	2.1%

Sub-field	Native American/First Nations/Indigenous Peoples		Non-European/Non-Anglo White		Other		Prefer not to answer	
	American Politics - Behavior	-	0.0%	19	3.5%	19	3.5%	47
American Politics - Institutions	-	0.0%	12	4.3%	44	15.4%	25	8.7%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	-	0.0%	25	3.2%	119	15.3%	72	9.3%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	-	0.0%	7	1.7%	60	14.1%	33	7.8%
Formal Theory and Methodology	-	0.0%	5	2.8%	31	17.3%	15	8.4%
International Relations	-	0.0%	13	3.0%	74	17.3%	44	10.3%
Political Theory	1	0.3%	8	2.4%	63	18.5%	39	11.5%
Grand Total	1	0.0%	89	3.0%	466	15.7%	275	9.3%

## Gender distribution among submitting authors and within author groups

In 2023 25.7% of submitting authors were female (27% in 2022 and 26% in 2021), 66.5% male (66.5% in 2022 and 68% in 2021) and 8% were non-binary or preferred not to answer (Table 20). This distribution is roughly stable across sub-fields, with Formal Theory & Methodology and Political Theory being the most male-dominated fields (Tables 22 and 23).

Table 20: Gender distribution of all authors, 2023

Gender	Quantity	%
Female	297	25.7%
Male	769	66.5%
Other	91	7.9%
Grand Total	1157	100%

Table 21: Gender distribution of all authors, 2021 to 2023

Gender	Quantity	%
Female	1603	26.7%
Male	3989	66.1%
Other	50	7.2%
Grand Total	6014	100%

Table 22: Gender distribution of corresponding authors by sub-field, 2021 to 2023

Sub-field	Female		Male		Other	
American Politics - Behavior	152	20.0%	348	17.4%	37	18.1%
American Politics - Institutions	75	9.9%	191	9.5%	20	9.6%
Comparative Politics - Behavior	230	30.3%	499	24.9%	47	22.5%
Comparative Politics - Institutions	100	13.2%	294	14.7%	31	14.8%
Formal Theory and Methodology	35	4.6%	133	6.6%	11	5.26%
International Relations	110	14.5%	288	14.4%	29	13.9%
Political Theory	57	7.5%	249	12.4%	34	16.3%
Grand Total	759	100.0%	2002	100.0%	209	100.0%

*Note:* “Other” combines categories “Non-binary” and “Prefer not to say”.

Table 23: Gender distribution of corresponding authors by sub-field (%row total), 2021 to 2023

Sub-field	Female		Male		Other		Grand Total
American Politics - Behavior	152	28.3%	348	64.8%	37	6.9%	537
American Politics - Institutions	75	26.2%	191	66.8%	20	7.0%	177
Comparative Politics - Behavior	230	29.6%	499	64.3%	47	6.1%	776
Comparative Politics - Institutions	100	23.5%	294	69.2%	31	7.3%	295
Formal Theory and Methodology	35	19.6%	133	74.3%	11	6.2%	179
International Relations	110	25.8%	288	67.5%	29	6.8%	427
Political Theory	57	16.8%	249	73.2%	34	10.0%	340
Grand Total	759	25.6%	2002	67.4%	209	7.0%	2970

An arguably more informative look at the author’s gender might be the distribution within teams of authors. Figure 10 and Table 24 show that the largest share of papers is written by a single author, whereby roughly 74.5% of single-authored papers are written by a male

scholar. Also, author teams of two remain male-dominated, only if teams get larger do they become dominantly mixed. While all-male teams are relatively common (25.6% of submissions), all-female teams are rather rare (only 4.1% of submissions). These numbers indicate that there is room for improvement to encourage female scholars to submit their work to the JOP.

Figure 8: Number of authors on submission, 2021-2023

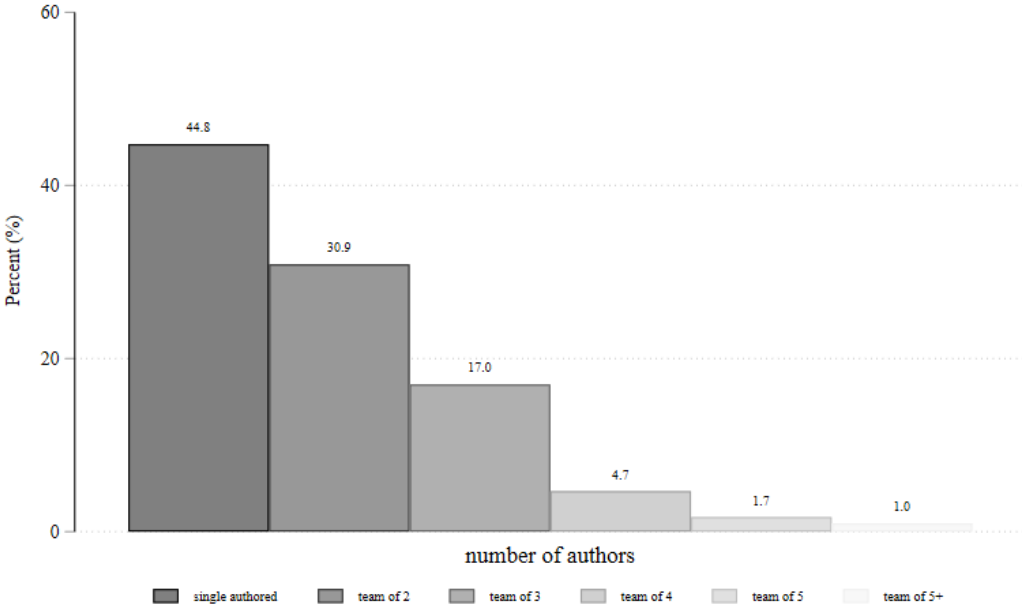


Figure 9: Number of authors on submission, 2021-2023

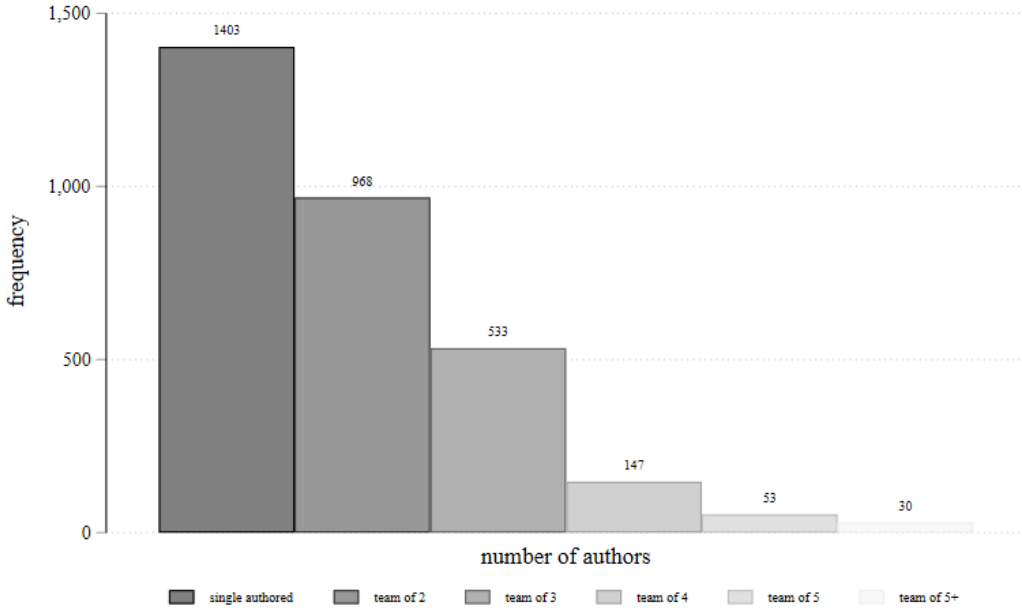
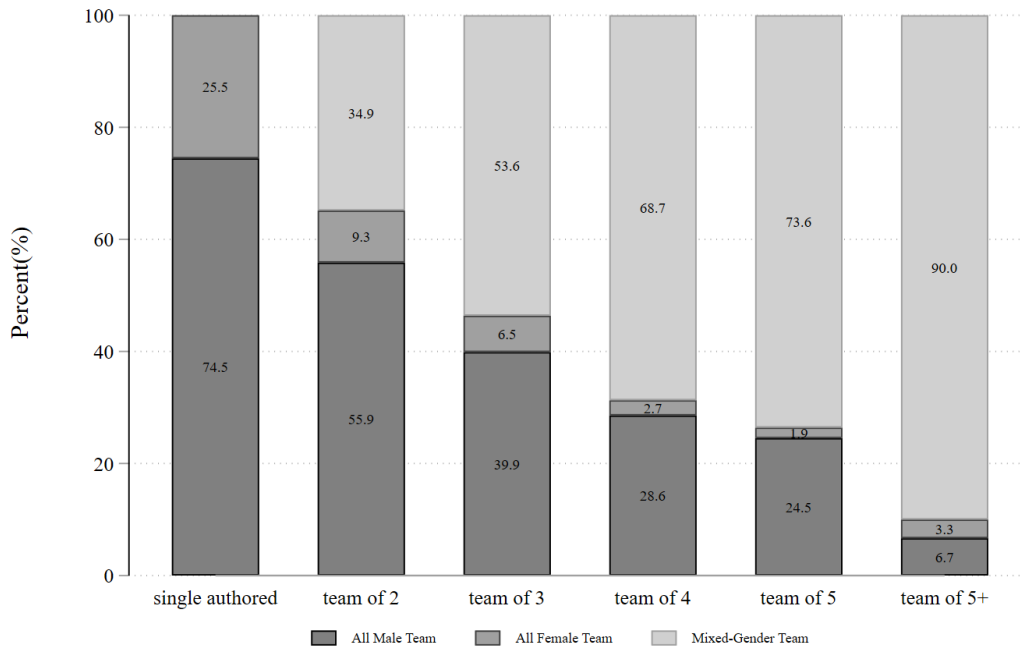


Table 24: Solo/team authored submissions by gender, 2021-2023

	Number	% of all Submissions
Solo Author Male	962	33.5%
Solo Author Female	330	11.5%
All Male Team	729	25.6%
All Female Team	117	4.1%
Mixed Gender Team	737	25.6%
Totals	2875	100%

Figure 10: Gender distribution among authors, 2021-2023





## Editorial Decisions by Gender and across Sub-fields

This section sheds some light on decisions made in relation to the gender of authors and across sub-fields (Tables 25 to 28) <sup>2</sup>. Table 25 shows that only roughly a third of accepted manuscripts have been submitted by a female corresponding author - yet given that only 24.7% of papers are submitted by female authors, this seems reasonable. Interestingly, manuscripts submitted by female authors have a significantly higher acceptance rate of 14.5% (20% in 2022) than papers submitted by men, 12.4% (13% in 2022) (see Table 26). In 2021, only 10% of papers submitted by women and 12% submitted by men were finally accepted to be published in the JOP. Of course, we cannot be certain of all the reasons accounting for the significant change, yet, we believe that bringing this issue to the forefront of editorial considerations played an important role. In addition, mixed teams have the highest probability of being accepted for publication (31.9%, see Table 28). This might point to the fact that men and women have different approaches to generating arguments and solving problems that can generate synergies in research. In addition, papers submitted by men and written by solo male authors have the highest desk rejection rate (see Table 28), potentially supporting the claim that female scholars are much more selective and submit more polished work to highly ranked journals.

Table 25: Editor decisions by gender of corresponding authors, % within decision categories

Gender	Accept		Reject for Audience		Reject with Reviews		Summary Reject		Grand Total	
Female	86	28.2%	24	20.7%	304	27.5%	177	19.8%	591	24.4%
Male	206	67.5%	75	64.7%	728	65.8%	656	73.5%	1665	68.8%
Other	13	4.3%	17	14.7%	74	6.7%	59	6.6%	163	6.7%
Grand Total	305	100.0%	116	100.0%	1106	100.0%	892	100.0%	2419	100.0%

Table 26: Editor decisions by gender of corresponding authors, % within gender categories

Gender	Accept		Reject for Audience		Reject with Reviews		Summary Reject		Total	
Female	86	14.5%	24	4.1%	304	51.44%	177	29.9%	591	100.0%
Male	206	12.4%	75	4.5%	728	43.7%	656	39.4%	1665	100.0%
Other	13	8.0%	17	10.4%	74	45.4%	59	36.2%	163	100.0%
Total	305	12.6%	116	4.8%	1106	45.7%	892	36.9%	2419	100.0%

Table 27: Accept-reject rates, within gender categories

Decision	Solo Male		Solo Female		All Male Team		All Female Team		Mixed Team		Total	
Accept	75	9.7%	23	9.0%	84	14.8%	17	20.2%	93	17.2%	292	13.2%
Reject for Audience	52	6.8%	19	7.5%	13	2.3%	1	1.2%	12	2.2%	97	4.4%
Reject with Reviews	277	35.9%	126	49.4%	279	49.2%	44	52.4%	282	52.2%	1,008	45.5%
Summary Reject	367	47.6%	87	34.1%	191	33.7%	22	26.2%	153	18.7%	820	37.0%
Total	771	100%	255	100%	567	100%	84	100%	255	100%	2,217	100%

<sup>2</sup>In a working paper we present a much more detailed analysis and interpretation of results regarding the relationship between gender and decision outcomes.

Table 28: Accept-reject rates, within decision categories

Decision	Solo Male		Solo Female		All Male Team		All Female Team		Mixed Team		Grand Total	
Accept	75	25.7%	23	7.9%	84	28.8%	17	5.8%	93	31.9%	292	100.0%
Reject for Audience	52	53.6%	19	19.6%	13	13.4%	1	1.0%	12	12.4%	97	100.0%
Reject with Reviews	277	27.5%	126	12.5%	279	27.7%	44	4.4%	282	28.0%	1,008	100.0%
Summary Reject	367	44.8%	87	10.6%	191	23.3%	22	2.7%	153	18.7%	820	100.0%
Total	771	34.8%	255	24.3%	567	25.6%	84	3.8%	255	11.5%	2,217	100.0%

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

## 10 Social Media

This section reports on the social media activity on the JOP’s X account (@The\_JOP), the JOP’s Bluesky account, and the JOP Blog (<https://jop.blogs.uni-hamburg.de>).

### X and Bluesky statistics

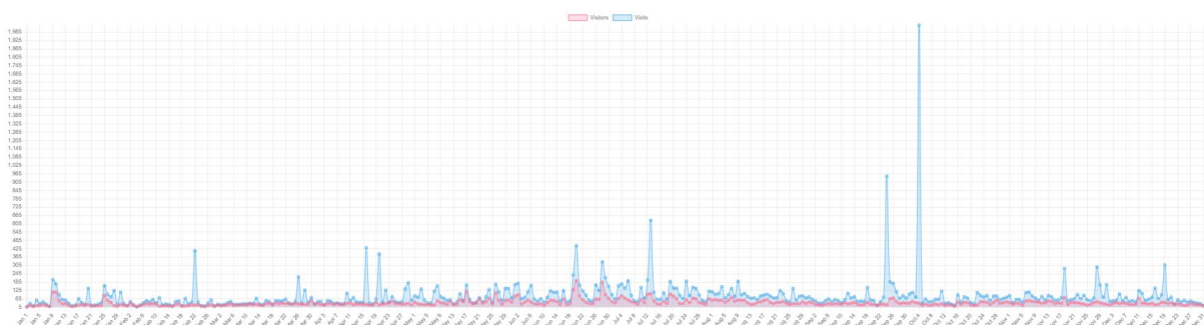
The active use of the X (formerly Twitter) account started in late April 2021. The main goals were to expand the journal’s impact and promote papers to reach a broader audience. The Twitter account @The JOP now has over 13.9k followers (12.6k in 2022), and the profile has earned a total of 110.4 K impressions over a period of 90 days, where we shared 21 posts from the JOP Blog (September 12– December 10, 2023). During these 90 days, we earned 1.2K impressions per day, 90 retweets, and 360 likes. One of the top tweets, promoting a blog piece by Tanushree Goyal, reached over 41,447 impressions. These impressive numbers are also due to the authors promoting their JOP articles on Twitter and sharing JOP’s Twitter content widely. Further Twitter metrics are currently unavailable due to Tweet Analytics being under construction.

Additionally, the JOP decided to join Bluesky, the emerging, text-based social media site backed by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. Starting November 1st, 2023, @the-jop.bsky.social has already reached over 511 followers. This number continues to increase steadily with more users joining the platform and starting to share and comment on our content on the platform.

### Blog Statistics

The JOP Blog aims to broaden the reach of research featured in the JOP and make political science research accessible to a broader audience. In order to achieve this, authors are requested to create blog posts that are easily understandable and engaging and to provide explanations for technical terms where necessary. The blog posts should not simply summarize the manuscripts but should ideally relate to current political, social, and economic discussions. The JOP Blog was launched in September 2021, and since then, it has received 73,890 visits to the site, with 31,864 of them occurring between January 1st and December 31st, 2023. Figure 11 shows the hit statistics.

Figure 11: Hit statistics



As of 2023, the majority of our users are from the United States (4,354), followed by Germany (1,201), India (531), China (508), and the United Kingdom (487). We began inviting authors of “Just accepted” manuscripts and authors whose manuscripts will be published in the JOP editions in December 2021, in order to expand their reach and audience. We have noticed that our readers show interest in a diverse range of topics. Notably, a post delving into how the ultra-rich wield media ownership as a political investment garnered the most attention, boasting 2,561 hits. The third most popular post, with 814 hits, delves into the methodological quandary of when to opt for standard confidence intervals and when not to. It’s worth noting that posts covering international foreign and security policies experienced a surge in hits during the latter half of 2023, likely influenced by ongoing global conflicts and wars.

Figure 12: Blog visitors by country (Top 30)

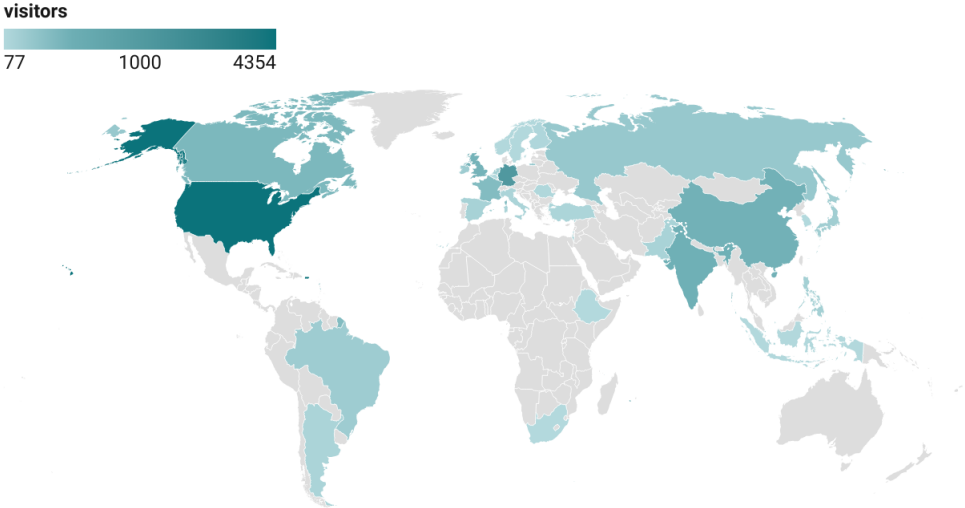


Table 29: Top 10 blog articles 2023

Title	Hits
Media Ownership as a Political Investment	2,561
International terrorism decreases public support for refugee resettlement, but not for long	1,129
So you think you can tell significant from insignificant differences?	814
The Political Price Authoritarians Pay for Misdeeds	699
How Humiliation Motviates War	638
Official start of Registered Reports	590
Like a parent, like a child: Both social and genetic factors account for parent-child similarities in voter turnout	476
Fighting Propaganda with Censorship	407
Which Feelings Make Us Vote? It's Not What You Think	371
The Surprising Stability of Asian Americans' and Latinos' Partisan Identities in the Early Trump Era	358

## 11 Replication

From January 1st, 2023 to December 31st, 2023, a total of 107 papers were replicated. Alejandra López Villegas (MSU) has been serving as the replication analyst since August 15, 2023. Starting from September 1, 2023, she began collecting more detailed data on the replicated papers. Here we provide some descriptive statistics on the date, quality, and field of these papers.

In total, 55 papers were replicated from September 1st, 2023, to December 31st, 2023. Figure 13 shows the monthly distribution of replicated papers. On average, 16 papers were replicated per month. The most replications occurred in October and November, with 18 papers each month, while the fewest were replicated in September, with only 6 papers.

Figure 13: Monthly number of replicated papers

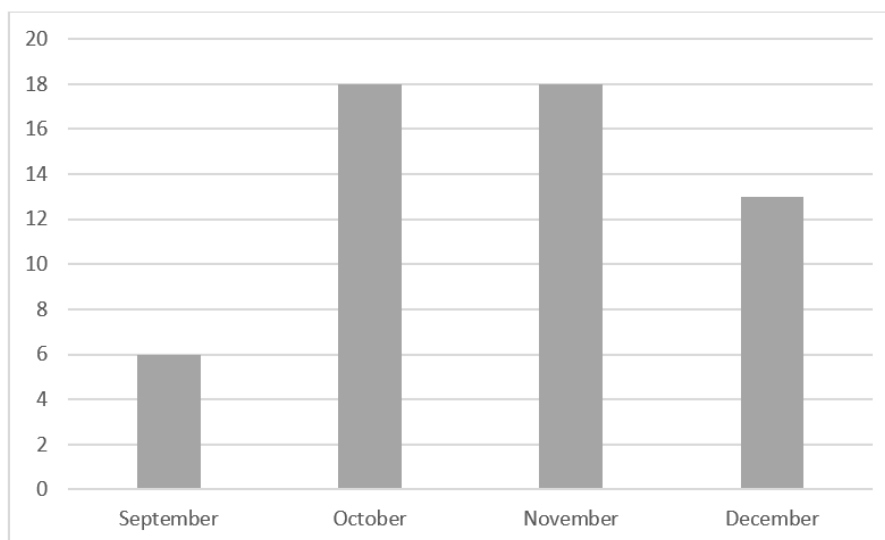


Table 30 presents information on the number of replicated papers across political science fields. Comparative Politics manuscripts make up 57% of the replicated papers, American Politics make up 15%, International Relations account for 13%, and Formal Theory and Methodology account for the remaining 2%.

Table 30: Number of replications across fields

Sub-field	Number of replication	Percentage
American Politics	15	28%
Comparative Politics	31	57%
International Relations	7	13%
Formal Theory and Methodology	1	2%

Table 31 provides statistics on the quality of replication material. Of all replicated papers, 74% either had no issues with codes, comment statements, or submitted materials or had

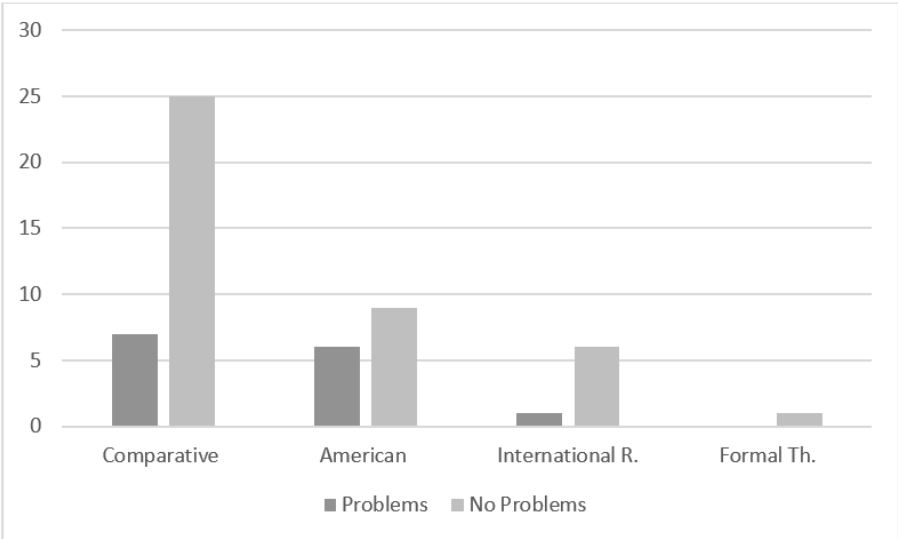
minor problems, such as missing required packages in the replication file or a very limited number of errors in syntax. The remaining 26% of the papers had major problems, such as the lack of comment statements, a large number of errors in syntax, or a mismatch between the original and replicated results. Nonetheless, these issues were subsequently addressed and corrected by the authors in all cases.

Table 31: Quality of papers

Category	Frequency	Percentage
No Problem	41	74%
Major Problem	14	26%

The quality of replication materials varies across fields. According to Figure 14, 60% of replication materials for American Politics papers had no issues. In the field of Comparative Politics, in 77% of cases there were no problems regarding the replication material. In International Relations, this figure was 86%. Finally, in Formal Theory and Methodology, 100% of the papers were replicated successfully without the need for revising the replication material.

Figure 14: Quality of replicated material



## 12 Registered Reports

Starting in January 2023, we began accepting registered report submissions as part of a time-limited trial. A registered report is a form of an empirical research article in which the theory, methods and proposed analysis are pre-registered, reviewed, and in-principle-accepted for publication prior to data access.

Our decision to accept registered reports attracted much attention in our community. The announcement tweet was retweeted and liked hundreds of times. More than a thousand scholars volunteered to sign up to review registered reports. Until September 19th, we received a total of 36 submissions. Until now, two submissions have been in-principle-accepted. This means that data collection can now start for these projects.

Table 32: Registered Report submissions by sub-field, 2023

Sub-field	Submissions
American Politics - Behavior	9
American Politics - Institutions	3
Comparative Politics - Behavior	10
Comparative Politics - Institutions	1
Formal Theory and Methodology	3
Political Theory	1
International Relations	9
Total	36

In-principle-accepted registered reports will be published regardless of the findings as long as data collection and analysis are carried out as originally planned.

This article format is new for authors and reviewers. Therefore, we provide extensive information as guidance on our website and in our communication with reviewers and authors. This strategy seems to have proven effective. The vast majority of articles and reviews demonstrate that authors and reviewers have accommodated well to the new article format. Despite the prevalent reviewer fatigue, we observe an interest among scholars to review this new article format. We will conduct a thorough evaluation of our experiences based on a pre-analysis plan that we published before the start of the trial (<https://osf.io/ft6zy>). We have extended the trial and will accept submissions until the end of June.



# 13 Editorial Board

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