Political Research Quarterly
Activity Report
2010

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OVERVIEW

In its 62nd year, *PRQ* continued to experience large increases in submissions and a growing influence in the discipline as demonstrated by increased impact factor rankings. According to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR), PRQ's* impact factor and rankings rose from .486 in 2007 (56/93) to .750 in 2008 (39/99), and further sustained its growth by rising to .915 (36/112) in 2009. *PRQ's* impact factor has grown by 88% since 2007. In 2010 Sage reported that *PRQ* ranks 18th out of 112 political science journals in the total number of citations.
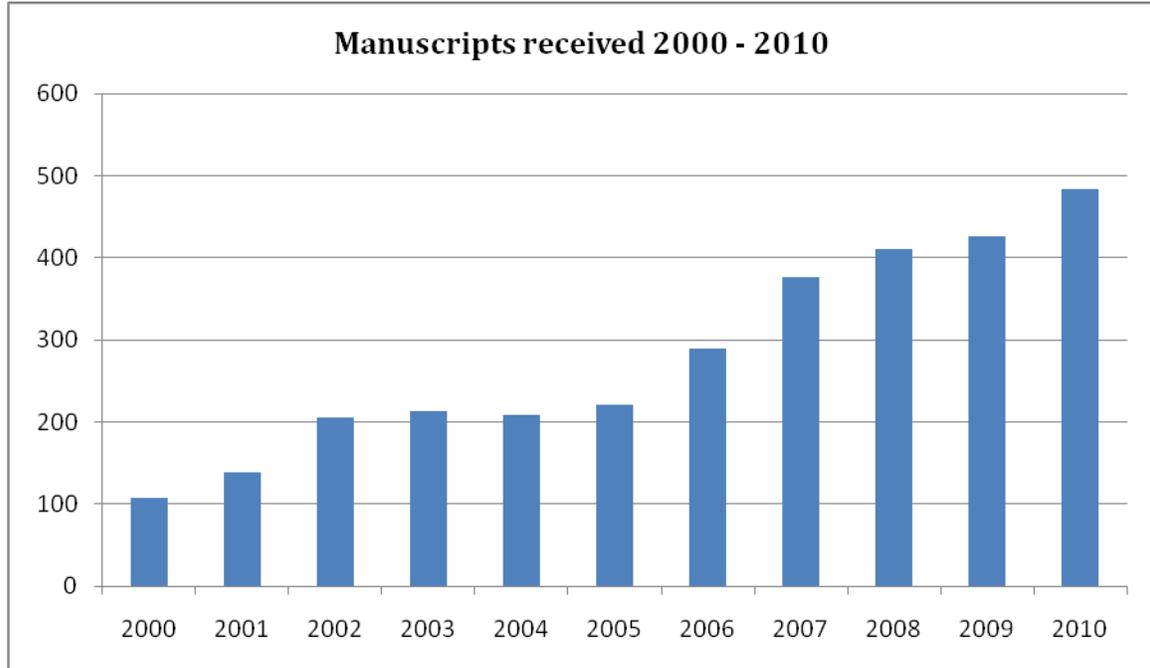
PRQ's relationship with Sage Publications also continues to be strong and supportive. Beginning with the March 2010 issue, the journal has been allotted 30 additional pages per issue (for a total of 238 pages per issue, up from 208 pages in 2009). *PRQ* Online has recently received a make-over and has transitioned to a new platform, which allows users to more easily navigate through current and archived issues. In 2010 and 2011 Sage has made several improvements to the *PRQ* website that will provide easier access to announcements, mini-symposia, and podcasts. In addition, we continue to publish articles through the *PRQ* Online First system up to 6 months prior to their publication in the journal, which both improves the journal's timeliness and allows subscribers to receive email alerts when new articles in their area are published online. As a new benefit offered by Sage, *PRQ* reviewers will be offered free 30-day access to all titles on the SAGE Journals Online First platform, as well as a 25% discount on Sage books. We also are currently in the process of developing with Sage a range of new social media services for *PRQ* subscribers (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, and a community blog space).

Finally, the editors have continued their efforts to stream-line the review process (i.e., average submission to decision turnaround time continues to be just over two months). Additionally, the editors have continued their dedication to represent the diversity of research and theoretical approaches in political science in the pages of the journal. For example, *PRQ* published a mini-symposium on the state of political theory as a subfield in its September 2010 issue and another mini-symposium on the state of intersectionality research in its March 2011 issue. *PRQ* also continues to encourage submissions of "problem-driven" research that take multi-method approaches. The editors have also continued their efforts to reach out to authors in substantive areas that have been under-represented in the journal in the past such as political theory and public administration.

SUBMISSIONS

As Figure 1 indicates below, *PRQ* has experienced an increase in submissions over the past ten years. More dramatic is the marked increase in submissions under the current editorial team since 2006. The number of submissions has grown in each of the past five years, more than doubling the number of submissions since 2005. In the past year submissions continued to increase, nearly 14 percent from the previous year, rising from 426 submissions in 2009 to 484 in 2010.

Figure 1.

PRQ uses nine primary field categories for classifying manuscripts and reviewers, which are used in this report.

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender, Race, and Identity[1]
- International Relations
- Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Administration
- Public Policy
- Public Law and Courts

When authors and reviewers register in the on-line system they are asked to select one of these categories as a primary field. They are also asked to select from a list of 50 secondary field categories based on the APSA organized sections or to write-in additional secondary fields. Figure 2 below presents the breakdown of submissions by the nine primary fields.

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[1] This category, created for administrative expediency, is a combined category of Gender and Politics, Race, Ethnicity and Politics, and Sexuality and Politics research and includes work in all categories.

Figure 2.

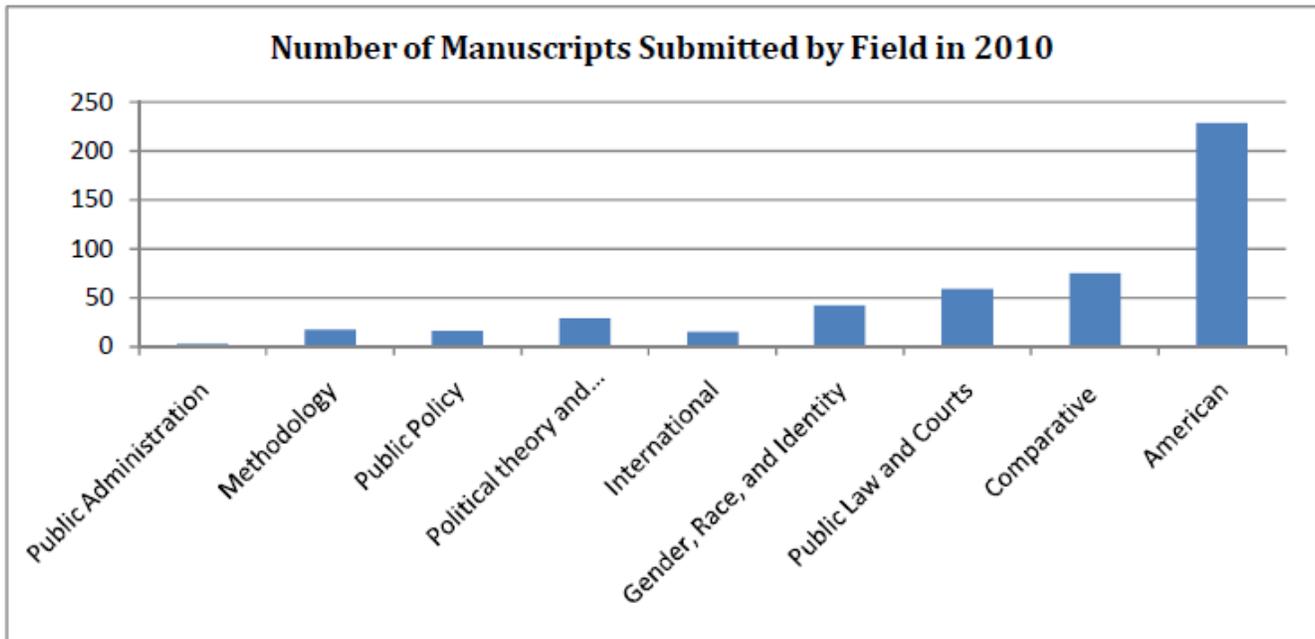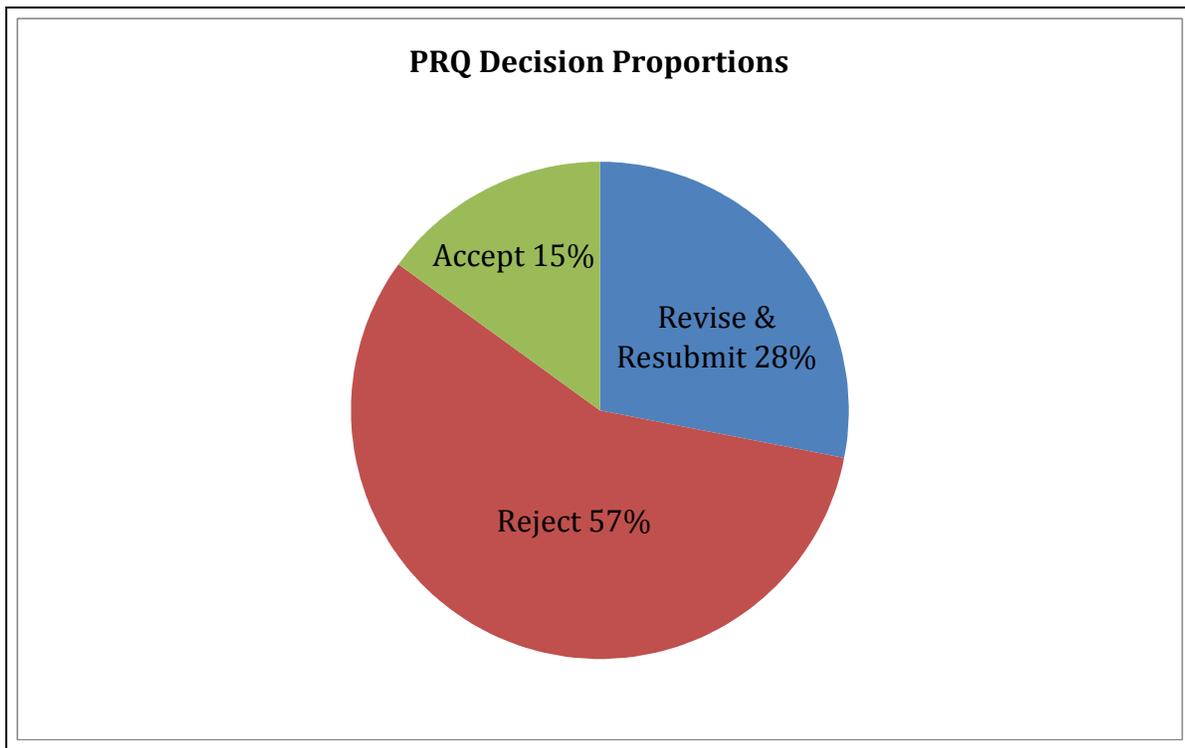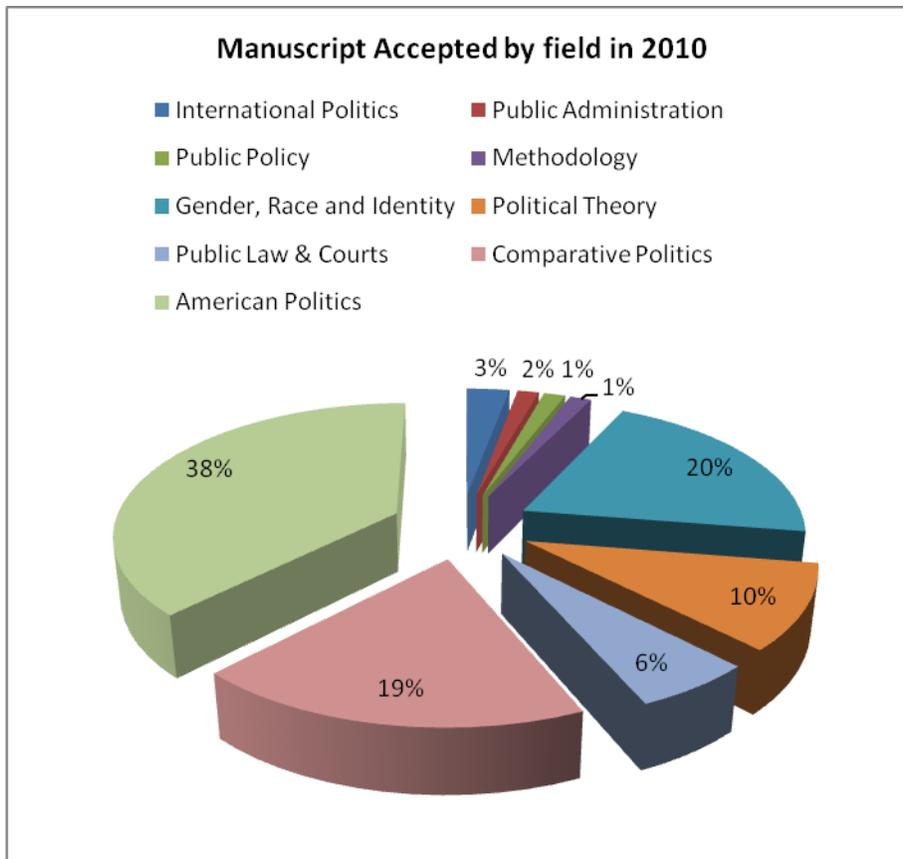**Number of Manuscripts Submitted by Field in 2010**

Figure 3 presents data on manuscript decisions in 2010.   The overall acceptance rate in 2010 was just under 15 percent, comparable to other top-ranked political science journals.

Figure 3.

PRQ Decision Proportions

Accept 15%

Revise & Resubmit 28%

Reject 57%

The effort to increase the substantive diversity of submissions is demonstrated in the distribution of the number of articles published by field in 2010 (see Figure 4 below). American Politics articles now represent 38 % of accepted manuscripts. Gender, Race, and Identity supplied the second largest number of accepted manuscripts at 20 %, followed by Comparative Politics (19%), Political Theory (10%), Public Law and Courts (6%), International Politics (3%), Public Administration (2%), Methodology (1%), and Public Policy (1%).

Figure 4: Manuscripts Accepted by Field in 2010

As a result of the continuing effort to attract international authors and readership, in 2010, the journal also received 11% of its submissions (54 manuscripts[2]) from authors living in countries outside the United States. This represents a 45% increase in international submissions over the previous year. The bulk of these submissions came from authors living in Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom, followed closely by France, Germany, and Ireland. Other countries represented by our authors include: The Republic of Korea, Taiwan, India, Portugal, Philippines, Italy, Turkey, Mexico, Sweden, Belgium, and Australia.
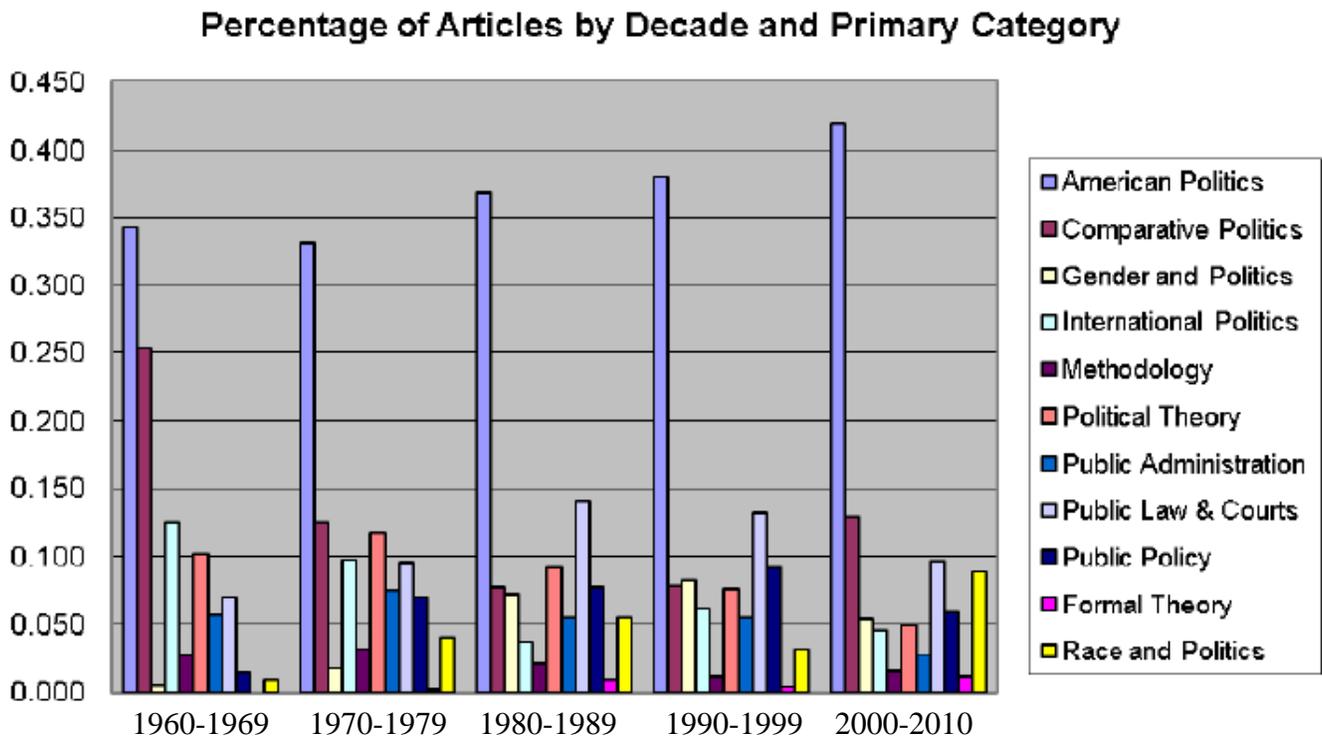
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[2] In 2009 PRQ received a total of 37 international manuscript submissions.

A major priority of the current editors took has been to provide a timely review process and to reduce the time that manuscripts are in review. Since August of 2006 the average time under review has been reduced from over 90 days to roughly 70 days.

CONTENT

Under the current editorial team, the journal has continued to publish in areas of traditional strength as outlined in the content analysis published in the Sixtieth Anniversary issue (Mazur and Clayton 2008). Figure 5 below presents the evolution of *PRQ* article content since the 1950s. The substantive breakdown of articles published in 2010 cited above, closely tracks trends in acceptance rates by field in the past decade.

Figure 5.

Percentage of Articles by Decade and Primary Category

Since 2006, *PRQ* has published mini-symposia on a range of topical themes. Guest editors work with the editorial team to put together 3-5 articles with an introduction and sometimes response essays. In most cases, articles go through the same review process as regular articles. Since initiating the regular mini-symposia nine have been published and one more has been accepted. These include:

"Diversity and Democracy," Todd Donovan, Symposium Guest Editor (March 2007)

"Dynamic Theories of Coalition Politics," Jamie Druckman, Symposium Guest Editor (September 2008)

"American Political Development through the Lens of Race," Julie Novkov, Symposium Guest Editor (December 2008)

"The Scientific Analysis of Politics," Rose McDermott and Kristen Monroe, Symposium Guest Editors (September 2009)

"Comparative Sources of Judicial Empowerment: Ideas and Interests," Lisa Hilbink and Patricia Woods, Symposium Guest Editors (December 2009)

"Measurement Matters: Empirical Implications of Data Selection in Comparative Politics," Andreas Schedler and Cas Mudde, Symposium Guest Editors (June 2010)

"Political Theory as Profession and as Subfield?" Tim Kaufman-Osborn, Symposium Guest Editor (September 2010)

"Race and 2008 Presidential Elections," Caroline Tolbert, Symposium Guest Editor (December 2010)

"Intersectionality Research,"Evelyn M. Simien, and Ange-Marie Hancock, Symposium Guest Editors (March 2011)

"Religion and Political Parties," Miriam Künkler and Manfred Brocker, Symposium Guest Editors (Forthcoming: December, 2011)

REVIEWERS

The editors have also made a concerted effort to expand the reviewer pool utilized by the journal. This is essential both to better represent the breadth of research interests and approaches within the discipline and to avoid "reviewer fatigue." Thus far PRQ's online reviewer database has grown to almost 2,000 reviewers. The current distribution of registered reviewers by primary field follows:

- American Politics: **33%**
- International Politics: **8%**
- Comparative Politics: **17%**
- Public Policy/Public Administration: **11%**
- Political Theory: **6%**
- Public Law and Courts: **8%**
- Gender, Race, and Identity: **9%**
- Methodology: **8%**

We continue to work with the Editorial Advisory Board to expand the journal's reviewer base. As part of this effort, we have created Outstanding Reviewer Awards that are given each year to recognize outstanding service to the journal (see below).

BEST ARTICLE AWARD

Each year, an award is presented to the best article in published in *PRQ* the previous year. The recipient receives $1000 and the award is announced at the WPSA annual meeting. The 2010 Best Article Committee was comprised of Mark Smith (University of Washington), Mark Sawyer, (University of California, Los Angeles), and Christine Harrington, (New York University). The 2010 Best *PRQ* Article Award went to Gail McElroy (Trinity College Dublin), and Michael Marsh (Trinity College Dublin), for their December 2010 *PRQ* Article titled, "Candidate Gender and Voter Choice: Analysis from a Multimember Preferential Voting System."

OUTSTANDING REVIEWER AWARDS

Political Research Quarterly is honored to have dedicated scholars serve as reviewers. With the support of SAGE, each year the Editors recognize exceptional reviewers that have shown their dedication through careful reviews with an "Outstanding Reviewer Award." In 2009 we increased the number of such awards from 10 to 20 per year. Each selected reviewer receives a $60 gift certificate from SAGE. Award recipients are announced at the WPSA meetings in March and at the APSA meeting in September. The twenty outstanding reviewers recognized for their work in 2009-2010 include:

1. Christopher Anderson, Texas A&M University

2. Vanessa Baird, University of Colorado

3. Lawrence Baum, Ohio State University

4. Janet Boles, Marquette University

5. Jamie Carson, The University of Georgia

6. Kathleen Dolan, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

7. Arnold Fleischmann, University of Georgia

8. Brian Frederick, Northern Illinois University

9. Steven Greene, North Carolina State University

10. Peter Hanson, University of Denver

11. Brian Harward, Southern Illinois University

12. Trey Hood, University of Georgia

13. Sara Jordan, The University of Hong Kong

14. Chad Lavin, Virginia Tech

15. Michael Bailey, Georgetown University

16. John Gerring, Boston University

17. Robert Klemmensen, University of Vienna

18. Sergio Wals, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

19. Priscilla Southwell, University of Oregon

20. Thomas Holyoke, California State University, Fresno

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