

Political Research Quarterly Activity Report 2011

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HIGHLIGHTS

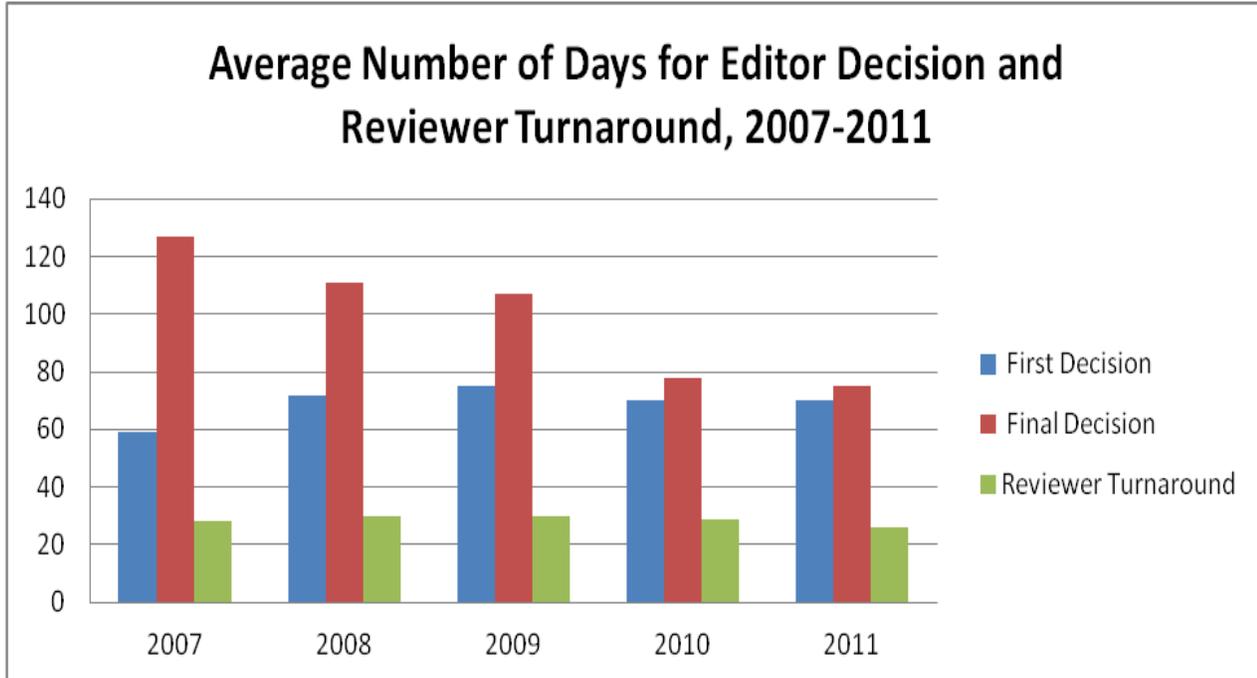
In its 63rd year, *PRQ* continued to experience a growing influence in the discipline. According to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*, *PRQ*'s impact factor and rankings has risen steadily from .486 in 2007 (ranking it 56th out of 93 journals in political science) to 1.018 in 2010. Eclipsing the 1.0 impact factor mark is an important benchmark in journal rankings, and *PRQ* now ranks 39th out of 139 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.

Sage also continues to offer *PRQ* reviewers free 30-day access to all titles on the SAGE Journals Online First platform, as well as a 25% discount on Sage books. *PRQ*'s mobile website was launched as well as a Sage/CQ Press social media presence on Facebook and Twitter where followers have direct access to the *PRQ* website. A new feature offered this year, when *PRQ* authors have publications in other Sage journals the two are linked for readers to get easy access from one article to the other. This was the case for the Mini Symposium, "Measurement Matters", co edited by Andreas Schedler and Cas Mudde, and Andreas Schedler's article in *Comparative Political Studies*.

The editors have continued their efforts to stream-line the review process and ensure timely decisions on manuscripts (i.e., average time in review at the journal continues to be just over two months). Figure 1 provides data on the average number of days between manuscript submission and editor decisions (both initial decisions, and final decisions for manuscripts receiving a revise and resubmit), as well as reviewer turnaround (the average time a reviewer takes to assess a manuscript) from 2007 to 2011. Since 2007, the average time to final decisions on manuscripts has decreased by 41% from 127 days to 75 days, while reviewer turnaround has remained relatively constant at approximately 30 days.

Figure 1



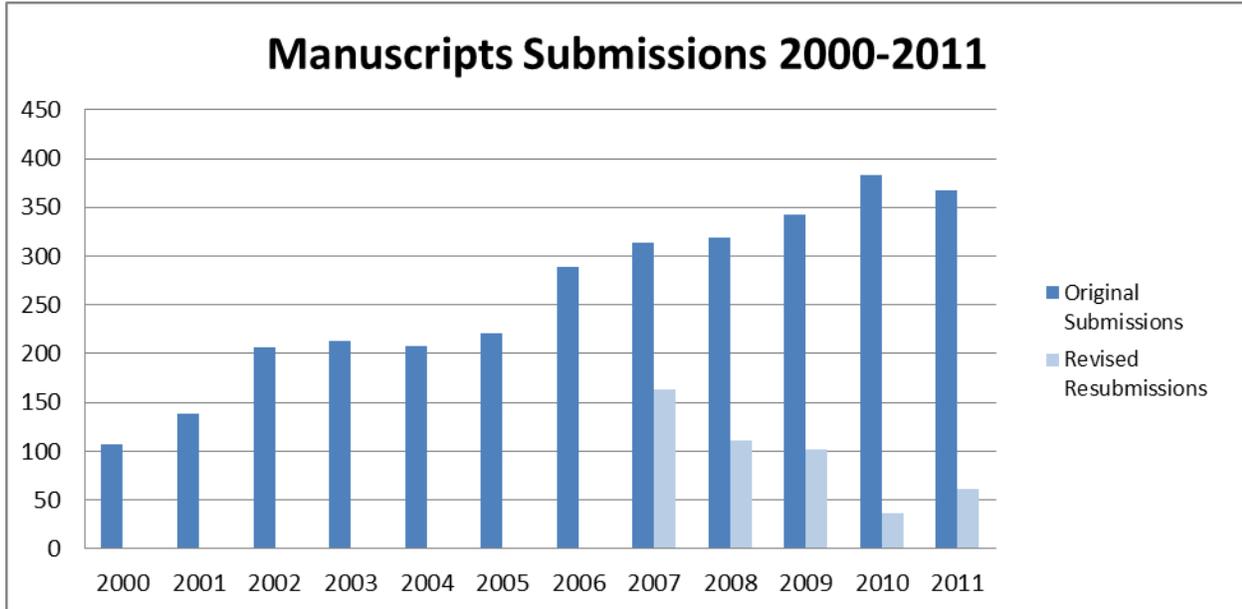
Finally, the editors have continued their efforts to represent the diversity of research and theoretical approaches in political science within the pages of the journal. For example, *PRQ* published a mini-symposium on the state of intersectionality research in its March 2011 issue. Proposed mini symposia are currently under review on Religion and Political Parties and Qualitative Comparative Analysis. The March 2012 issue will also lead with an author exchange on interrogational torture in a new “Exchange” feature in the journal. *PRQ* also continues to encourage submissions of “problem-driven” research that take multi-method approaches, and the editors continue their efforts to reach out to authors in substantive areas that have been under-represented in the journal in the past.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

As Figure 2 indicates below, *PRQ* has experienced an increase in submissions over the past ten years¹. More dramatic is the marked increase in submissions under the current editorial team since 2006, growing from roughly 225 submissions in 2005 to more than 380 submissions in 2010. In 2011, the journal experienced a slight decrease in *original submissions* but an increase in *resubmissions* from the previous year (caused mostly by the review timing of articles in mini-symposia). Thus, the overall upward trend in submissions continues at the journal. New manuscript submissions to the journal in 2012 are running about 4 percent above submissions at the same date last year.

¹ The data from 2007 through 2010 differs from that presented in previous *PRQ* Annual reports, which combined original and revised submissions into total submissions for each year. Data distinguishing between original and revised manuscript submissions before 2007 could not be obtained.

Figure 2.



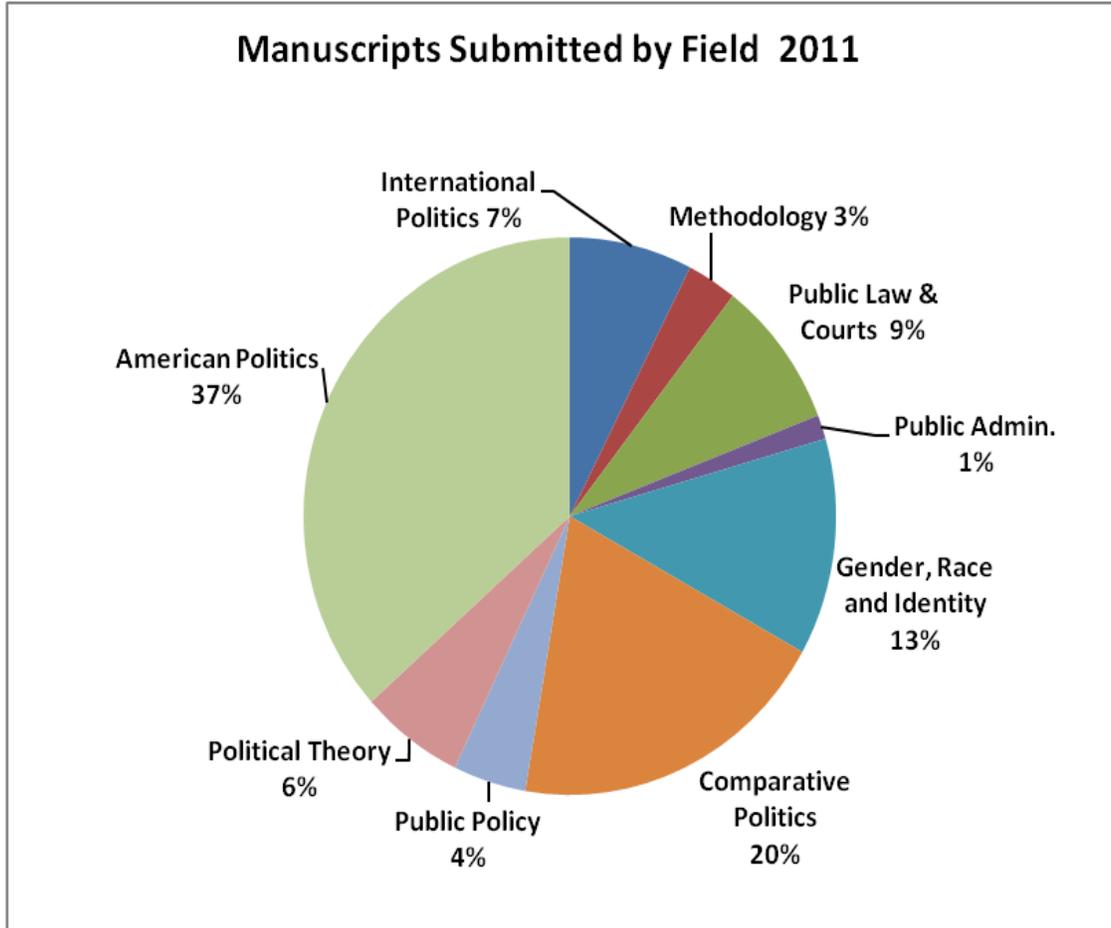
PRQ uses nine primary field categories for classifying manuscripts and reviewers. These include:

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender, Race, and Identity²
- 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 3 below presents the percent breakdown of submissions by the nine primary fields.

² 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.

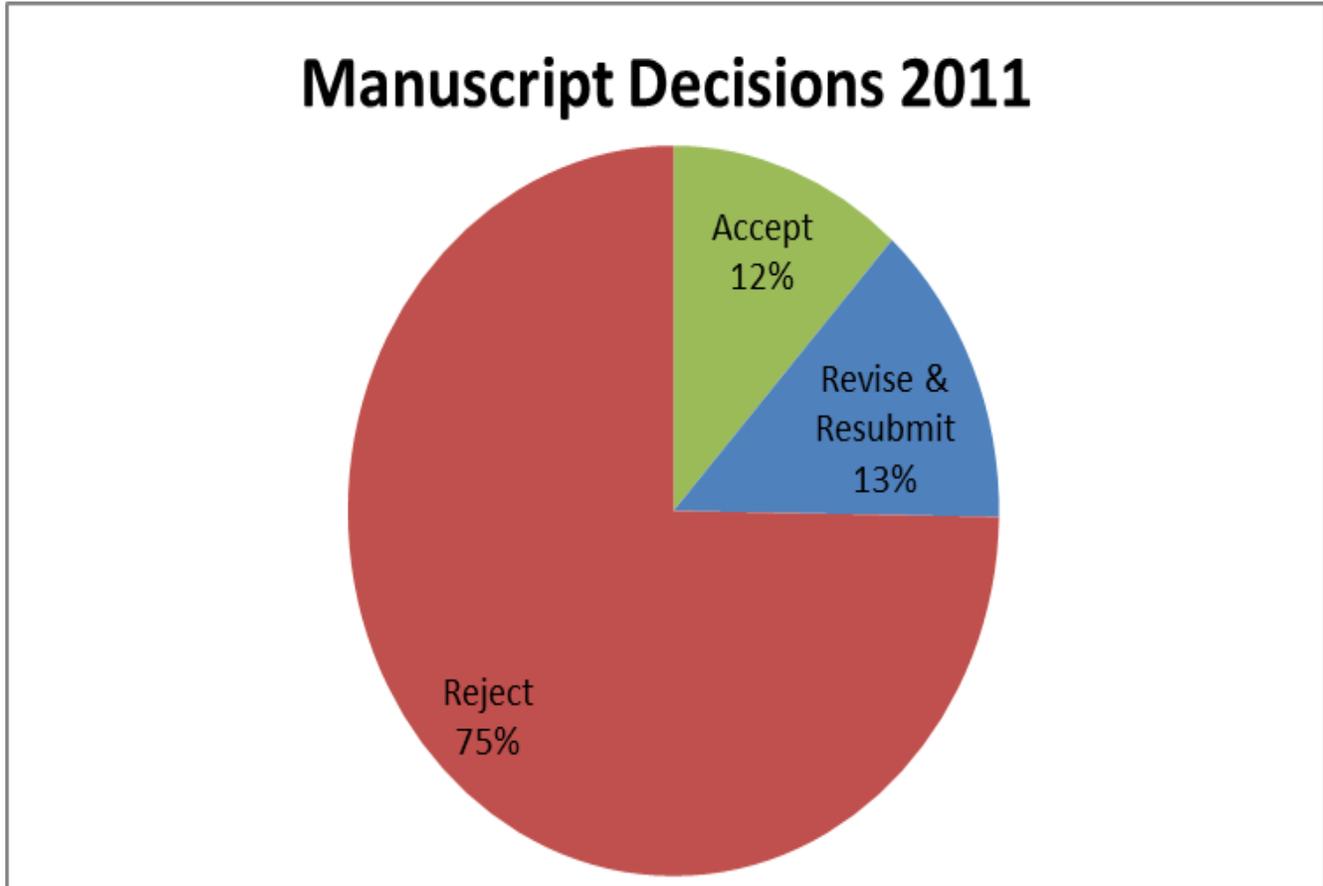
Figure 3.



MANUSCRIPT DECISIONS

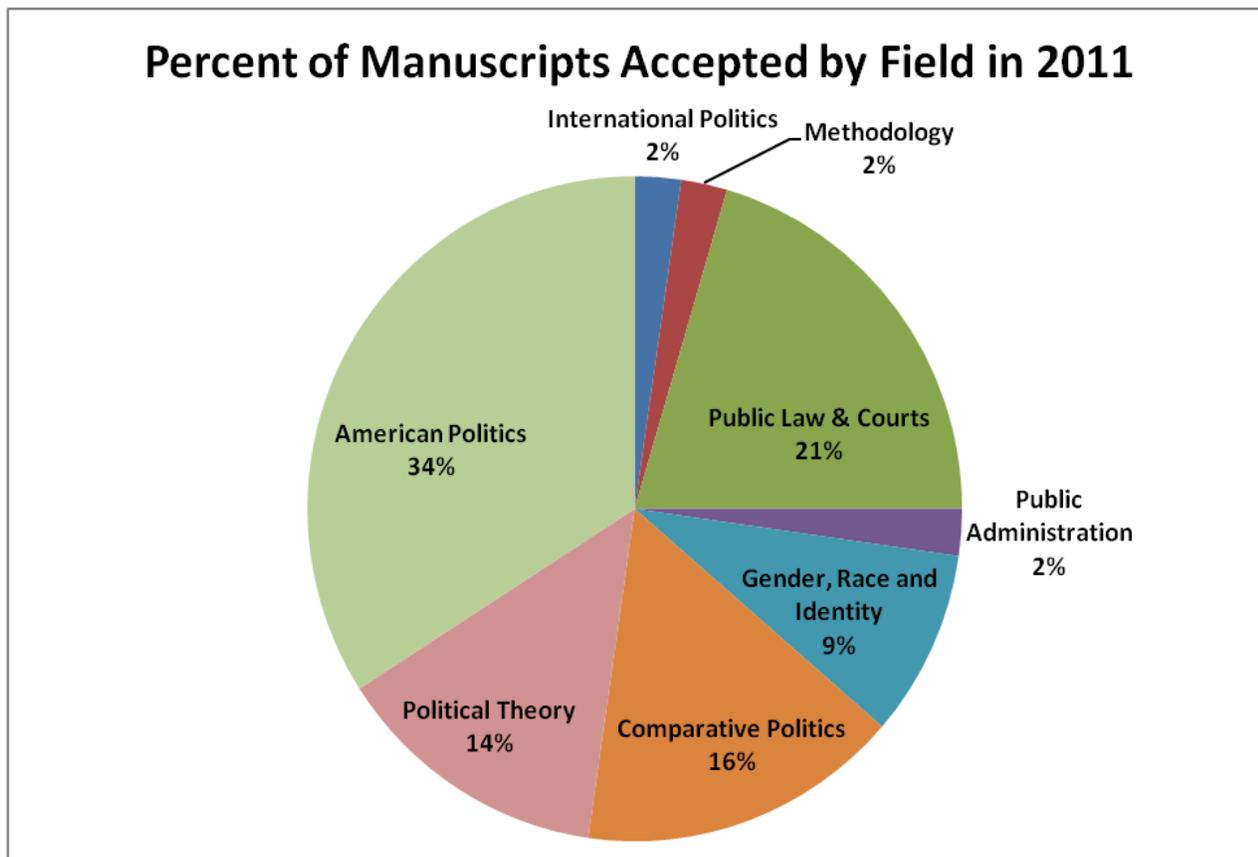
Figure 4 presents data on manuscript decisions in 2011. The overall acceptance rate in 2011 was just under 12 percent. The acceptance rate at the journal has fallen steadily as submissions have increased at the journal, and it is now comparable to other top-ranked journals. The acceptance rate is down nearly one-third since 2006, dropping from approximately 18 percent in 2006, to 12 percent in 2011.

Figure 4.



Efforts to increase the substantive diversity of published articles in the journal are demonstrated in the distribution of the number of articles published by field in 2011 (see Figure 5 below). American Politics articles now represent 34% of accepted manuscripts. Public Law and Courts supplied the second largest number of accepted manuscripts at 21%, followed by Comparative Politics (16%), Political Theory (14%), Gender, Race and Identity (9%), International Politics (2%), Public Administration (2%), and Methodology (2%).

Figure 5



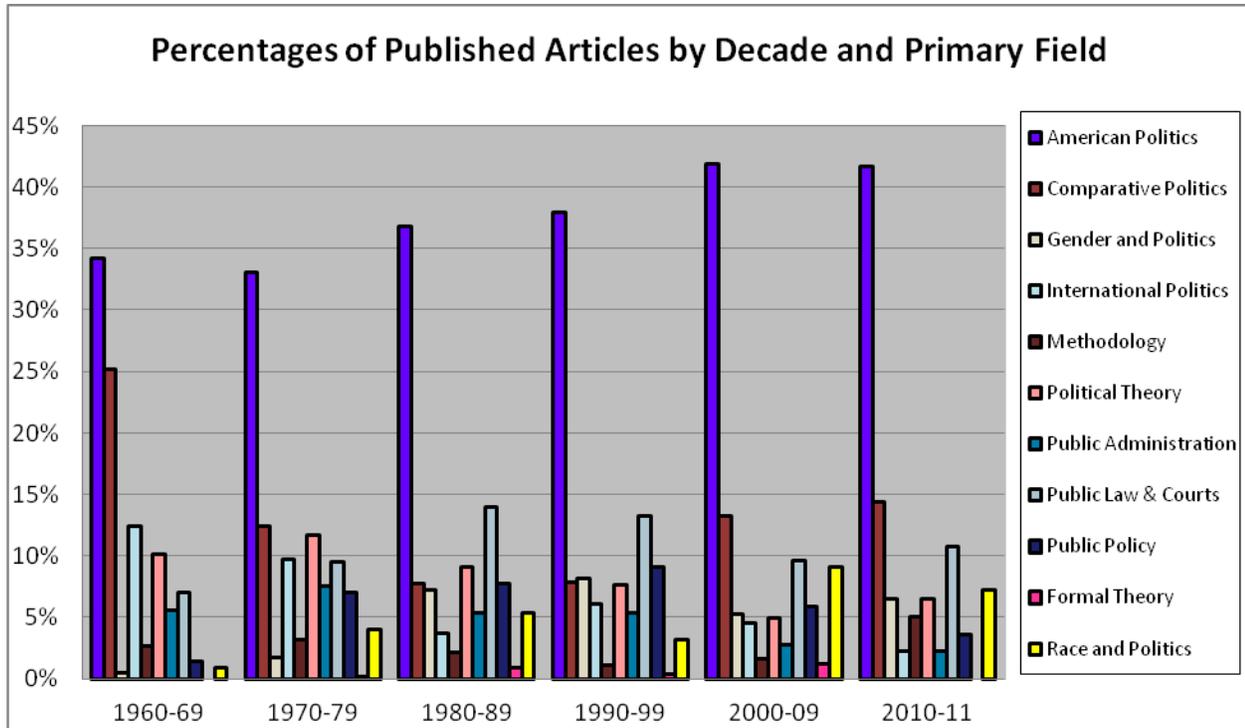
As a result of the continuing effort to attract international authors and readership, in 2011, the journal received 21% of its original submissions (77 manuscripts) from authors living in countries outside the United States. This represents a 43% increase in international submissions over the previous year³. The bulk of these submissions came from authors at institutions 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. Additionally, research published in *PRQ* is receiving attention in the international press. For example, Christine Cheng and Margit Tavits' article "Informal Influences in Selecting Female Political Candidates" published in the June 2011 issue was cited in the Vancouver Sun, the Montreal Gazette, and the India Times, as well as several electronic international news outlets like Yahoo.com and Canada.com.

³ In 2010 *PRQ* received a total of 54 international manuscript submissions.

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 6 below presents the evolution of *PRQ* article content since the 1960s. The substantive breakdown of articles accepted for publication in general closely tracks trends in submission rates by field in the past decade.⁴

Figure 6.



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-symposium feature nine symposia have been published and one is accepted and forthcoming in 2012. Past mini-symposia include:

- “Diversity and Democracy,” Todd Donovan, Symposium Guest Editor (March 2007)
- “Dynamic Theories of Coalition Politics,” Jamie Druckman, Guest Editor (September 2008)
- “American Political Development through the Lens of Race,” Julie Novkov, Guest Editor (December 2008)

⁴ Data for this table were first compiled for the 60th anniversary content analysis article. Each year the article database is updated and made available to the public on the WPSA website.

- “The Scientific Analysis of Politics,” Rose McDermott and Kristen Monroe, Guest Editors (September 2009)
- “Comparative Sources of Judicial Empowerment: Ideas and Interests,” Lisa Hilbink and Patricia Woods, Guest Editors (December 2009)
- “Measurement Matters: Empirical Implications of Data Selection in Comparative Politics,” Andreas Schedler and Cas Mudde, 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, Guest Editor (December 2010)
- “Intersectionality Research,” Evelyn M. Simien, and Ange-Marie Hancock, Guest Editors (March 2011)

REVIEWERS

The editors have 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.” *PRQ*’s online reviewer database has expanded to well over 2,000 reviewers. The current distribution of registered reviewers by field follows:

- American Politics: **33%**
- International Politics: **9%**
- Comparative Politics: **18%**
- Public Policy/Public Administration: **11%**
- Political Theory: **7%**
- Public Law and Courts: **7%**
- Gender, Race, and Identity: **9%**
- Methodology: **7%**

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.

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 2010-2011 include:

- 1) Michael Berry, *University of Colorado*
- 2) Jennifer Clark, *University of Houston*
- 3) Stacia Haynie, *Louisiana State University*
- 4) Jacob Holt, *University of Missouri-Columbia*
- 5) Ben Nyblade, *University of British Columbia*
- 6) Nicol Rae, *Florida International University*
- 7) Michael Wagner, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
- 8) Ted Jelen, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*
- 9) David Lowery, *Leiden University*
- 10) Julie Novkov, *University at Albany, SUNY*
- 11) Ramona McNeal, *University of Northern Iowa*
- 12) Ehud Sommer, *University at Albany, SUNY*
- 13) Jeffrey Stonecash, *Syracuse University*
- 14) Chris Bonneau, *University of Pittsburgh*
- 15) Brian Frederick, *Northern Illinois University*
- 16) David Fott, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*
- 17) Jan Teorell, *Lund University*
- 18) James Gibson, *Washington University in St. Louis*
- 19) Allison Sovey, *Yale University*
- 20) David Kimball, *University of Missouri-St. Louis*

BEST ARTICLE AWARD

Each year, an award is presented to the best article published in *PRQ* the previous year. The recipient receives \$1000 and the award is announced at the WPSA annual meeting. The Best Article Award this year went to:

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel R. Sanchez, and Jason L. Morin, all from the University of New Mexico, for their December 2011 article: “The Institutional Mobility of Minority Members of Congress.”

This year’s Best Article Committee was comprised of Matt Barreto (University of Washington), Todd Donovan (Western Washington University) and Lonna Rae Atkeson (University of New Mexico).

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