Political Research Quarterly
Activity Report
2012

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HIGHLIGHTS

In its 64nd 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 over the past six years. Its 2011 impact factor is 0.921, ranking it 45th out of 148 political science journals (its impact factor was .486, and was ranked 56th out of 93 journals, in 2007). The 5 year 2011 impact factor is 1.298, an increase of +0.049 in comparison to 2010. PRQ was also ranked 18th in Google Scholar's "Top Publications in Political Science". [1]

PRQ's relationship with Sage Publications also continues to be strong and supportive. Working with Sage, the editors have expanded the total number of pages per issue (from 208 pages in 2007 to 238 in 2011) allowing them to reduce the backlog of accepted and forthcoming articles. *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. Sage has also 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.
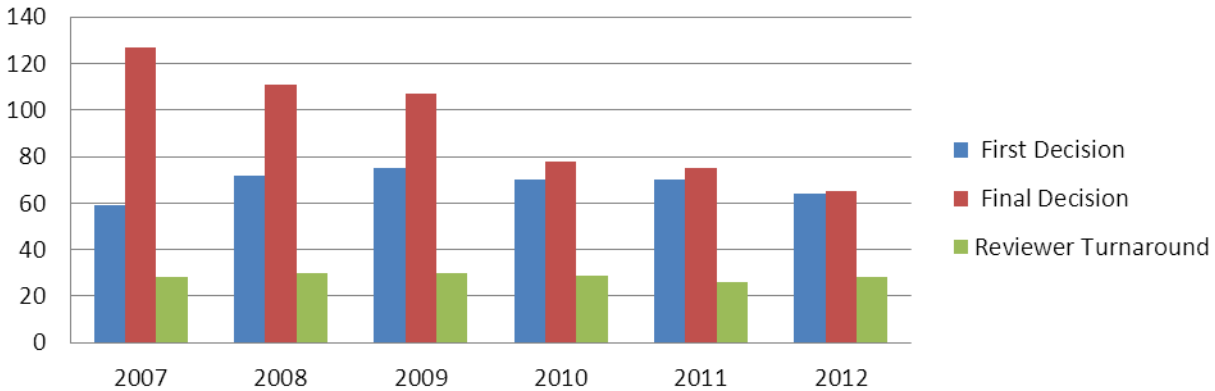
Sage also continues to offer *PRQ* reviewers free 30-day access to all titles on the SAGE Journals Online First platform, as well as a 25% discount on Sage books. *PRQ's* mobile website was launched as well as a Sage/CQ Press social media presence on Facebook and Twitter where followers have direct access to the *PRQ* website. In early 2012, SAGE launched SAGE/CQ Press political science channels on Twitter and Facebook. Currently there are 1,197 followers on Twitter, and 529 fans on Facebook who regularly post *PRQ* content. There is also a *PRQ* Wikipedia page to drive traffic to the site. Furthermore, *PRQ* was featured in the latest Political Science Newsletter from SAGE.

During the past year the editors have continued efforts to stream-line the review process and ensure timely decisions on manuscripts. The 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 editorial decisions (both for initial decisions and final decisions for manuscripts receiving a revise and resubmit), as well as average reviewer turnaround (the average time a reviewer takes to assess a manuscript) from 2007 to 2012. Since 2007, the average time to final decisions on manuscripts has decreased by 49% from 127 days to 65 days, while reviewer turnaround has remained relatively constant at approximately 30 days.

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[1] Go to: http://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=soc_politicalscience.

Figure 1

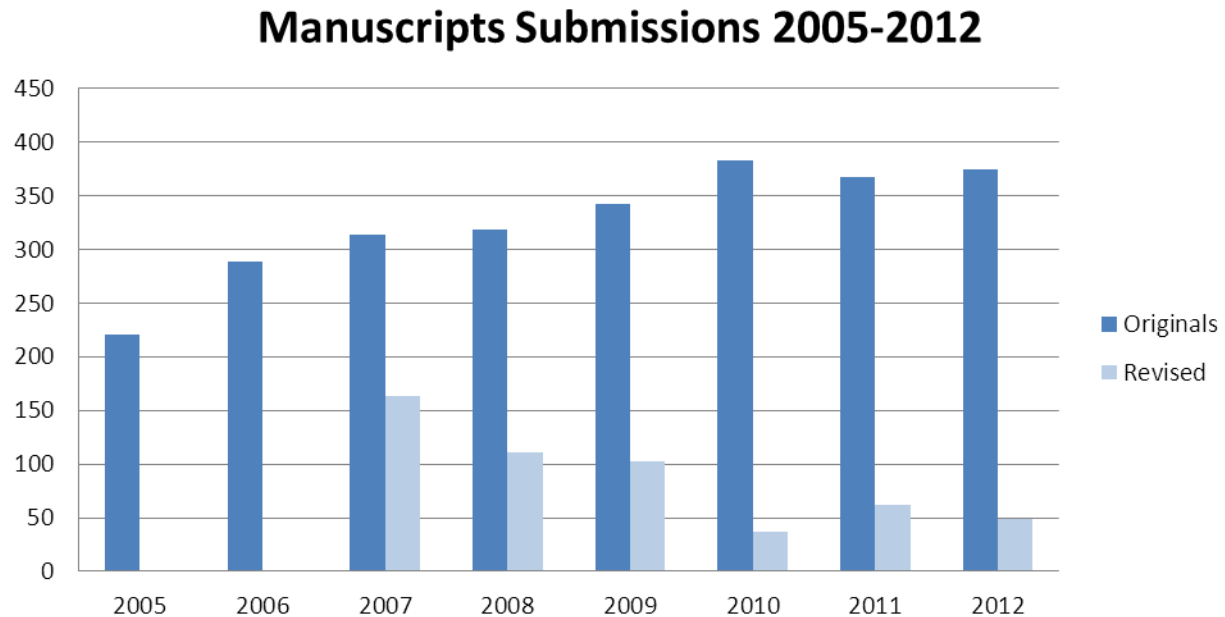Average Number of Days to Editor Decision and Reviewer Turnaround, 2007-2012

The editors have also continued their efforts to represent the diversity of research and theoretical approaches in political science within the pages of the journal. The March 2012 issue included a new, "author-reviewer Exchange" that featured a controversial debate about the use of rational choice analysis to study interrogational torture. *PRQ* also continues to encourage submissions of "problem-driven" research that take multi-method approaches. The March 2013 issue for example will feature a mini-symposium on qualitative comparative analysis called: "QCA, 25 Years after "The Comparative Method": Mapping, and Challenges and Innovations". The editors also continue their efforts to reach out to authors in substantive areas that have been under-represented in the journal. For example, political theory manuscripts made up only 5 percent of submissions to the journal last year but 9 percent of accepted manuscripts in 2012. Similarly, in 2012, the editors solicited and currently have forthcoming in 2013 a mini-symposium focused on media and gender politics

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

PRQ continues to receive a high number of manuscript submissions each year. As indicated in Figure 2, manuscript submissions to the journal have risen substantially since 2006, growing from 225 submissions in 2005 to 375 manuscripts in 2012.[2] The corresponding number of offers to authors to revise and resubmit manuscripts has also declined sharply during this period, dropping from nearly 160 offers in 2007 (the earliest year for which we have data) to only 50 in 2012.

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[2] 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.

Manuscripts Submissions 2005-2012

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

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Gender, Race, and Identity[3]
- 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.

MANUSCRIPT DECISIONS

Figure 4 presents data on manuscript decisions in 2012. Consistent with the journal's growing quality and prestige, the acceptance rate declined over the past six years, from an 18 percent

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[3] 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.

acceptance rate in 2006 to a 10 percent rate in 2012. The acceptance rate is now comparable to other top-ranked journals in the discipline.
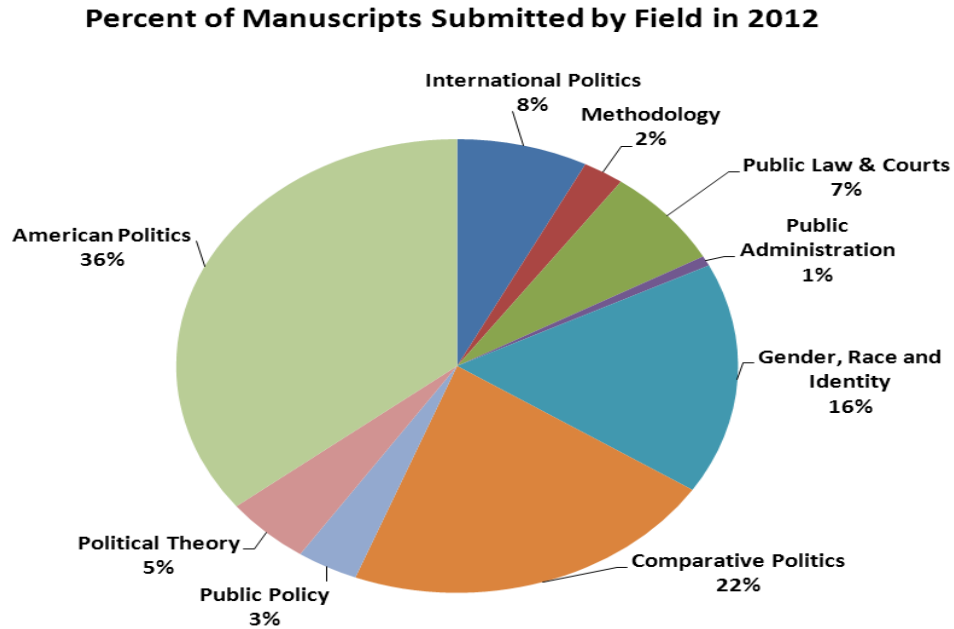
Figure 3.

Percent of Manuscripts Submitted by Field in 2012

Figure 4.

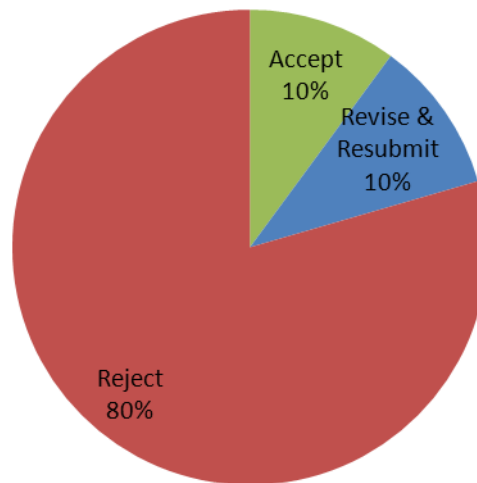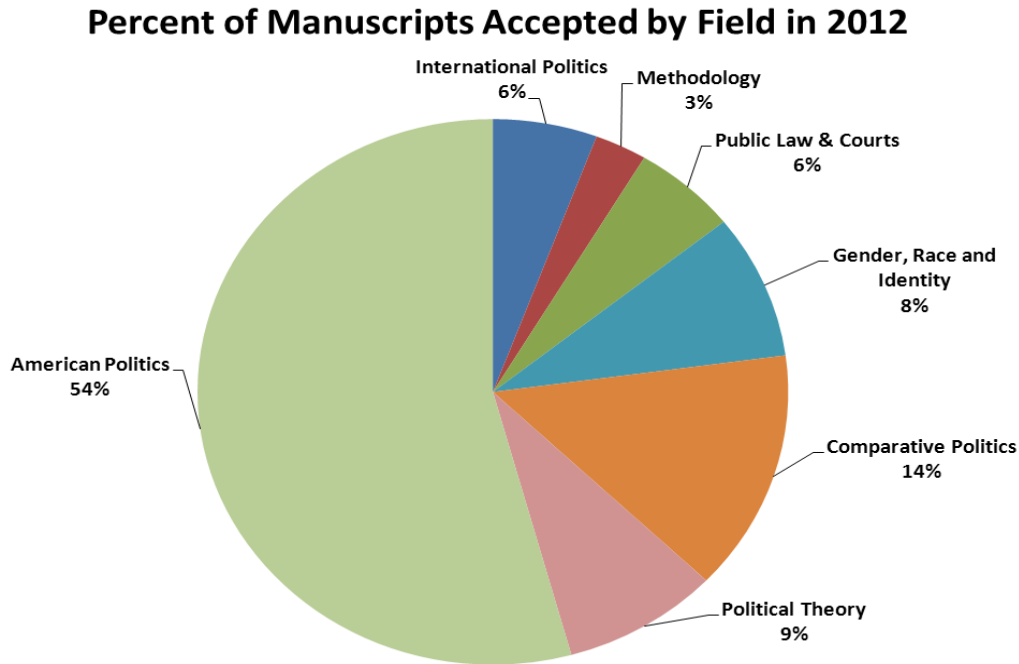### PRQ Decision Proportions in 2012

Figure 5 shows the distribution of articles accepted in 2012 by substantive fields. American Politics continued to represent the largest number of accepted manuscripts (54%), followed by Comparative Politics (14%), Political Theory (9%), Gender, Race and Identity (8%), Law and Courts and International Politics (both 6%), and Methodology (3%).

Figure 5

Percent of Manuscripts Accepted by Field in 2012

- International Politics 6%
- Methodology 3%
- Public Law & Courts 6%
- Gender, Race and Identity 8%
- American Politics 54%
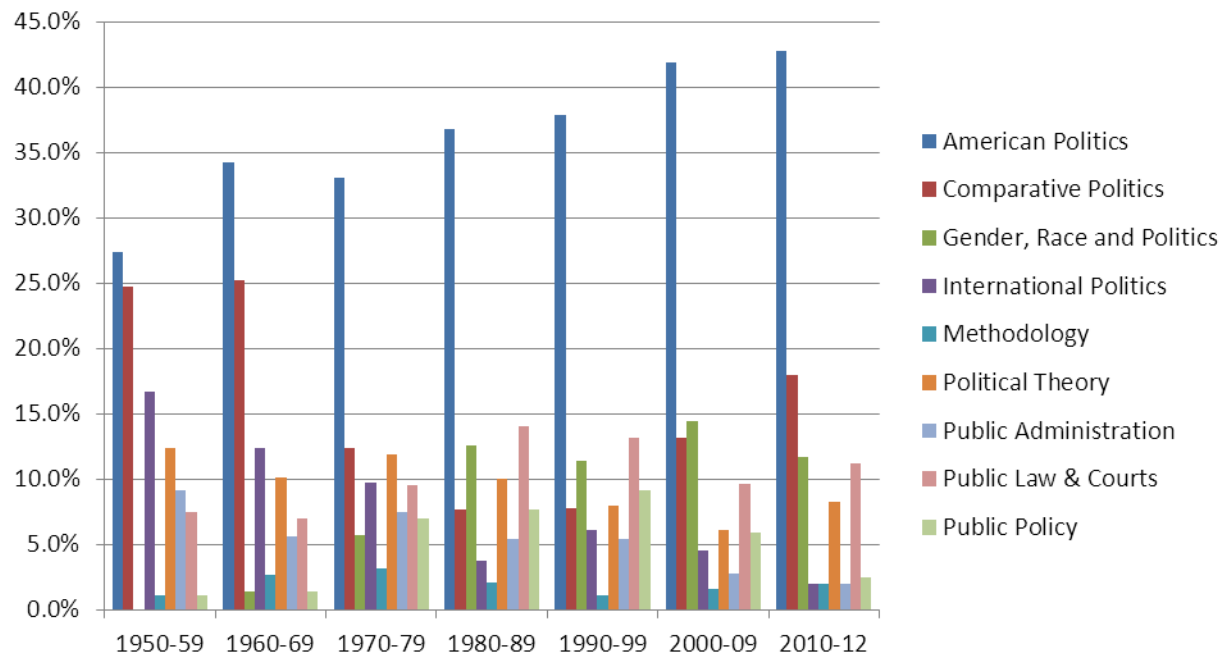- Comparative Politics 14%
- Political Theory 9%

As a result of the continuing effort to attract international authors and readership, in 2012, the journal received 16% of its original submissions (55 out of 347 manuscripts) from authors living in countries outside the United States. The bulk of these submissions came from authors at institutions in The United Kingdom, Canada and Germany, followed closely by Spain, Turkey, and China. Other countries represented by our authors include: Italy, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Korea, the Netherlands, Austria, Israel, Norway, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia. Out of all published articles in 2012 (35 articles) 10 are from authors who's institution is located abroad (29%).

CONTENT

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]

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[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.

Figure 6.

Since 2006, *PRQ* has published mini-symposia on a range of topics. Guest editors work with the editorial team to put together 3-5 articles with an introduction and response essays. In most cases articles go through the same review process as regular articles. Roughly one-third of mini symposia articles have been rejected, this includes two entire proposed symposia. Since initiating the regular mini-symposium feature eleven symposia have been published and one is accepted and forthcoming in 2013. 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)
- ◼ "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)
- ◼ Exchange: John W. Schiemann and Dustin Ells Howes, (March 2012)

- "QCA, 25 Years after "The Comparative Method": Mapping, and Challenges and Innovations", Benoît Rihoux and Axel Marx, Guest Editors (March 2013)
- "Media and Gender Politics" Melanie Rose, Regina Lawrence, Guest Editors (September 2013)

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 3,000 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: **8%**
- 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 significant 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." 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 2011-2012 include:

1) Tetsuya Matsubayashi	*Texas A&M University/ University of North Texas*
2) James Walsh \	*University of North Carolina, Charlotte*
3) Seung-Whan Choi	*University of Illinois at Chicago*
4) Mark Bevir	*University of California, Berkeley*
5) David Karol	*UC Berkeley/ University of Maryland*
6) Jason Gainous	*University of Louisville*
7) Neil Jumonville	*Florida State University*
8) Matthew Levendusky	*University of Pennsylvania*
9) Teena Wilhelm	*University of Georgia*
10) Daniel Hopkins	*Georgetown University*

11) Mary Atkinson	*UNC Chapel Hill*
12) Stanley Berard	*Lock Haven University*
13) Shannon Jenkins	*University of Massachusetts Dartmouth*
14) Susanna Dilliplane	*University of Pennsylvania*
15) Paul Collins	*University of North Texas*
16) John Matsusaka	*University of Southern California*
17) Joseph Young	*American University, Washington D.C.*
18) John Gerring	*Boston University*
19) Ariel Ahram	*University of Oklahoma*
20) Danny Hayes	*American University, Washington D.C.*

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:

> Sarah Fulton from the Texas A&M University, for her June 2012 article: "Running Backwards and in High Heels: The Gendered Quality Gap and Incumbent Electoral Success."

This year's Best Article Committee was comprised of Kathleen Sullivan (Ohio University), Stephen Nicholson (University of California, Merced) and John G. Gunnell (University of California, Davis).

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