



## **Editorial**

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## **Editorial**

Renee Jeffery, John Parkinson, Annika Werner & Tracey Arklay

As we enter our second year as the editorial team of the Australian Journal of Political Science we have begun making plans for the journal's future. With this in mind, we have recently reviewed the structure and membership of the journal's Editorial Board and Editorial Committee. As part of this process, we have made the decision to abandon the existing dual structure of our advisory bodies and to institute a single Editorial Board. Our intention is that our new Board will be an active advisory group that not only serves as a source of evaluation and advice for the editors, but meets annually to review the journal's performance, strategies, and future plans.

In establishing our new Board, we have been particularly keen to ensure that our advisory body accurately represents the demographics and subfields of our authors and readers, as well as the core mission and aspirations of the journal. In particular, we have sought both to strike a balance between maintaining a broad base of Australian representation and ensuring international engagement, and to increase the number of women on our Board.

The majority of submissions to the AJPS continue to be from authors based at Australian universities. This is as it should be: Australian political science is and ought to be our main focus and we aim primarily to serve the membership of the Australian Political Studies Association. At the same time, maintaining an international profile, expanding our readership beyond our shores, and contributing to global debates in political science are also important goals for the journal. To that end, it is encouraging to note that in addition to articles by Australian based authors, the journal received submissions from scholars based in twenty other countries in 2017. Among our key goals in the coming years is to see that number, and with it the international breadth of our readership expand.

To these ends, more than half of our new editorial board is drawn from academics based at ten Australian universities while the rest are based overseas. The international members of

the Board are drawn from the United Kingdom, United States of America, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, India and the Netherlands, and are based at a range of prestigious institutions, including the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Harvard University, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

2017 also saw a significant increase in the numbers of articles written by sole female authors published in the journal. Coupled with this, gains made by the previous editorial team in increasing the percentage of articles published with at least one female author were maintained in the past year. Underlying these results, male and female authors achieved almost identical rates of success when they submitted their research to the AJPS. Among our key challenges now is to increase the rate at which women submit their work to the journal.

Of course submission and publication rates are only part of the equation in achieving gender equality in publishing. Also significant are the vastly different rates at which men and women are cited in scholarly works across the discipline. Although changing citation practices will be a long term challenge, not just for the AJPS but for political science as a whole, we hope to play a small part in encouraging that change. In 2017 we instituted a new referencing style that includes first names rather than just initials in reference lists. In doing so, our hope is not only that more effective auditing of gendered citations patterns will be possible, but that authors will be encouraged to consider their own citation practices.

In addition, as part of our effort to improve the representation of women in political science, the membership of our new Editorial Board is comprised of approximately equal numbers of men and women. Our new female board members are based both in Australian and overseas universities, and their expertise stretches from gender studies and feminist politics to International Relations, security studies, political theory, quantitative political science, Australian politics, and the history of political thought. This represents the beginning of an ongoing plan to continue diversifying the journal's Board, readership and, of course, the authorship of its articles in the years to come.

Along with heralding an era of change at the AJPS we would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the significant efforts of those scholars who are standing down from our existing advisory bodies, some after a great many years of service to the journal. We wish to thank them all for the dedicated contributions they have made to the AJPS and wish them the very best in their future academic and non-academic endeavours.