

ADDENDUM TO THE EDITOR'S REPORT: THE AJPS EDITORIAL OFFICE IN 2014

William G. Jacoby
March 24, 2014

Editor's Statement:

My term as Editor of the *American Journal of Political Science* began on January 1, 2014. It continues until December 31, 2017. The *AJPS* Editorial Offices opened at Michigan State University on January 2, 2014. The Editorial Staff for the *AJPS* consists of:

Editor-in-Chief:	William G. Jacoby
Managing Editor:	Robert N. Lupton
Editorial Interns:	Miles T. Armaly Adam Enders
Student Assistant:	Michael Sayre

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Along with my colleagues in the Editorial Office, I look forward to working with the social science research community over the next four years. During that time, our overriding mission is straightforward: We will publish groundbreaking research of the very highest quality, across all subfields of the political science discipline. In order to achieve this objective, we are committed to providing authors with efficient and timely turnaround when processing submitted manuscripts. And, we will seek to provide constructive and informative reviews that provide authors with useful information regardless of the ultimate editorial decision.

The Editorship of the *American Journal of Political Science* is a great honor and an awesome responsibility, with real potential to affect the course of research and the evolution of the discipline. But it is also important to emphasize that this is a cooperative endeavor. In addition to those of us in the Editorial Office there are many others involved, including:

The MPSA Executive Council, which provides general guidance, feedback, and critical support for the *Journal* and the Editorial Office.

The MPSA Executive Director, who serves as the main point of contact and interface between the Midwest Political Science Association and the *AJPS* Editor

The Editorial Board, the members of which will take an active part in the manuscript review process, as well as help to establish editorial policies and formulate objectives for specific substantive content in the *Journal's* pages.

Manuscript Authors, who seek to use the *AJPS* as a highly visible and influential publication outlet for their best work.

Referees, who provide indispensable advice to the Editor about the quality and importance of submitted work.

The process of disseminating research through publication in the *American Journal of Political Science* can only succeed when all of these actors work together to achieve a common goal—publishing the very best work that the social science research community can produce. Those of us in the Editorial Office really do regard this as a team effort. And, we look forward to working with all of you on this team, pushing the theoretical forefront of our discipline to new achievements and theoretical insights over the next four years!

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to outgoing *AJPS* Editor Rick Wilson and his staff (especially Editorial Assistant Donna Palizza), not only for the outstanding job that they did guiding the *Journal* from 2010 through 2013, but also for their wonderful assistance and invaluable advice during the transition. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Michigan State University Department of Political Science (especially Chair Charles W. Ostrom), the MSU College of Social Science, and the Midwest Political Science Association (especially Executive Director Will Morgan) for their support and encouragement. The *AJPS* Editorial Offices could not exist (literally!) without their contributions and ongoing assistance. I am very grateful.

Manuscript Processing:

As Rick Wilson indicated in his report, we have “hit the ground running” with respect to manuscript processing. Our major task over the first two and one-half months of my Editorial tenure has been to develop a set of efficient operating procedures for overseeing and managing the flow of manuscripts into the office, out to referees, and

then into the queue for an editorial decision. We believe we have made good progress toward this objective.

As of March 15, 2014, the *AJPS* Editorial Office at Michigan State had received 208 submissions. Of these, a total of 169 have been sent out for review by external referees. In the vast majority of cases (95.86%), the manuscript is sent to the referees within seven days of its initial submission. In fact, more than two-thirds of the manuscripts (68.64%) are sent out within two days. The mean number of days from submission to reviewer invitations is 1.84 days, with a median of one day.

Of the incoming manuscripts, 37 or 17.97% were rejected without being sent out for review. This occurs either because the paper is inappropriate for the *AJPS* or because I determine that the manuscript would have little chance of receiving positive recommendations from the referees. Desk rejections are usually made very quickly. All but four of them occurred within three days of the initial submission. So far, I have not had any authors request a reconsideration for one of my desk rejections.

Most of the 169 manuscripts we sent out are still with the referees. But, I have made 22 decisions so far. Of these, 19 (or 11.24%) are “reject” and three (or 1.78%) are “revise and resubmit.” So far, I have not accepted any manuscripts that have been submitted during my term. But, I did accept one paper that was submitted to the previous Editor and there is another acceptance pending (the author must cut out some material before the final decision is rendered). For the 22 completed reviews during my editorial term, the time until decision ranged from 29 days to 67 days, with a mean of 46.27 days.

The *AJPS* Editorial Board:

As a single Editor (as opposed to an editorial team) with no specific Associate Editors, I plan to rely very heavily on the Editorial Board— probably much more so than most other journal editors within the discipline. For example, I have told Board members that they can expect to be asked to review up to one manuscript per month. In addition, I plan to rely on Board members to help determine whether submitted manuscripts should be sent out to external reviewers at all, or desk-rejected. My plan is to regard the Editorial Board more as a large set of Associate Editors than as a set of names that appear on the *Journal's* masthead. At this point, 61 scholars have agreed to serve on the Board; this leaves about four more places to be filled. Hopefully, I will have this completed within a few weeks, at most. The current members of the *American Journal of Political Science* Editorial Board are:

James Adams, University of California, Davis

E. Scott Adler, University of Colorado

Barry Ames, University of Pittsburgh

David Armstrong, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Ryan Bakker, University of Georgia
Cheryl Boudreau, University of California, Davis
Gregory Caldeira, Ohio State University
David Campbell, University of Notre Dame
Eric Chang, Michigan State University
Kevin Clarke, University of Rochester
Michelle Dion, McMaster University
Robert Franzese, University of Michigan
Guy Grossman, University of Pennsylvania
Catherine Hafer, New York University
Jens Hainmueller, Stanford University
Peter Hatemi, Pennsylvania State University
Jude Hays, University of Pittsburgh
Kim Hill, Texas A&M University
Patricia Hurley, Texas A&M University
Kosuke Imai, Princeton University
Zaryab Iqbal, Pennsylvania State University
Stephen Jessee, University of Texas
James Johnson, University of Rochester
Eric Juenke, Michigan State University
Erin Kaheny, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Kerem Ozan Kalkan, Old Dominion University
Tyson King-Meadows, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Kenneth Kollman, University of Michigan
George Krause, University of Pittsburgh
Dimitri Landa, New York University
Frances Lee, University of Maryland
Beth Leech, Rutgers University
Matt Levendusky, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Lewis-Beck, University of Iowa
Quan Li, Texas A&M University
Peter Lorentzen, University of California, Berkeley
Neil Malhotra, Stanford University
Scott McClurg, Southern Illinois University

Bonnie Meguid, University of Rochester
Sara Mitchell, University of Iowa
Bumba Mukherjee, Pennsylvania State University
Megan Mullin, Temple University
Irfan Nooruddin, Ohio State University
Susan Orr, State University of New York, Brockport
Costas Panagopoulos, Fordham University
Mark Pickup, Simon Fraser University
Grigore Pop-Eleches, Princeton University
Kristopher Ramsay, Princeton University
Saundra Schneider, Michigan State University
Melissa Schwartzberg, New York University
Curt Signorino, University of Rochester
Betsy Sinclair, Washington University in St. Louis
Shane Singh, University of Georgia
Marco Steenbergen, University of Bern
Christina Tarnopolsky, McGill University
Cameron Thies, Arizona State University
Joe Ura, Texas A&M University
Guy Whitten, Texas A&M University
Kenneth Williams, Michigan State University
Alan Wiseman, Vanderbilt University
Jonathan Woon, University of Pittsburgh