

Founding reflections

Welcome to the 30th volume of the journal, a milestone for biopolitical research. In honor of the association's three-decade anniversary, this issue is dedicated to the contributions of the founding members of APLS, who recognized the central role of biopolitical research in the analysis of political behavior, theory, and policy well before the rest of the field realized its relevance.

This founders theme is represented in multiple ways in this issue. First and most noticeably, the cover showcases all nine original members of the APLS steering committee except the late Fred Kort, whose image could not be located. Appearing on the cover in his place is James Schubert, whose contributions to the association and journal will long be remembered. Indeed, due to a bit of digital digging and good fortune, a previously unpublished research article by Schubert and colleagues appears posthumously in this issue.

In their piece, on physical attractiveness and candidate evaluation, Schubert's team examines the interaction between cognitive and affective factors in candidate appraisal. They propose that automatic processing of physical appearance predisposes affective disposition toward more attractive candidates, thereby influencing cognitive processing of issue information. Although written a decade ago, the piece is very contemporary in its approach and findings—and makes an important contribution to the attractiveness literature.

This issue also features a Founders' Forum consisting of 12 articles by or about founding members of the association, beginning with an introduction to the forum on page 50. Special thanks to Patrick Stewart for helping to assemble and edit these informative essays about the association, journal, and key conceptual threads within biopolitics. The substance of these essays, as well as the research presented at last fall's APLS meeting, is summarized by Nichole Bauer in a cogent review of the meeting's presentations and plenary panels.

The founders' legacy is further reflected in two additional research articles, one an ethical assessment by S. Adam Seagrave of the tension between evolutionary theory and theories of human rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence, the other a case

study analysis by Susan Behuniak of contending meanings surrounding the use of the term "dignity" in debates over physician assisted death.

Completing the issue is a special review forum organized by Brad Thayer on *Naturally Selected: The Evolutionary Psychology of Leadership* by Mark van Vugt and Anjana Ahuja. The book merits attention because it recasts the field of leadership studies in light of evolutionary theory and synthesizes a broad range of literature while introducing a new analytical framework for leadership studies. At the same time, the work remains accessible enough for a popular audience of business readers and other non-specialists.

With this issue I am pleased to welcome Eileen Burgin of the University of Vermont to the editorial advisory board. Eileen's policy analyses of the debate over stem cell research at the state and national level, and public input into discussions about national health care policy, have provided trenchant perspective on these matters in recent issues of the journal.

Long time readers will also notice two small but significant changes to the journal's format. First, the month of publication now appears as the season: spring and fall are replacing March and September. Second, the inside front cover now features the editorial advisory board, association officers, contributing editors, and other front matter that had been mostly relegated to the back pages. The inside back cover now carries information for contributors.

Careful readers will also note that the tagline to my note now places me in Southern California. The change in locale reflects a change in my primary employment from the academic world to private industry with the market research firm of SmithGeiger LLC, although I retain an adjunct affiliation with Indiana University.

As we take this moment to reflect on the founders' lasting and generative legacy, the politics and life sciences community owes a debt of gratitude to these pioneering individuals for setting off on a daring and pathbreaking intellectual journey. Their quest continues to serve us well heading into the association's fourth decade of existence.

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