

# Editor-in-Chief's introduction to the issue and volume 40 in review

Gregg R. Murray

The editorial team is pleased to release the Spring 2022 issue of *Politics and the Life Sciences (PLS)*, volume 41 issue 1. It includes possibly the fullest range of articles of any issue of *PLS*, from Research Articles and Notes to Perspective Essays, Research Tool Reports, and Book Reviews. The articles include topics related to political behavior and institutions as well as biopolitical philosophy. Among the articles is a pre-registered study that was to be published in the Fall 2020 special issue on “Disgust and Political Attitudes,” but floods and a pandemic led to “science interrupted,” leaving Parma and Arceneaux (2022) to demonstrate how to adjust when science is not just interrupted, it is disrupted. It also includes a response to Rubenson’s (2021) “Tie my hands loosely: Pre-analysis plans in political science” from McDermott (2022) entitled “Breaking free: How pre-registration hurts scholars and science.” And, unfortunately, in the final pages colleagues remember Steve Peterson, a founder of the discipline of biopolitics and a dear colleague to many (Stewart et al., 2022).

With much gratitude, the editorial team thanks the reviewers of both issues of volume 40, who graciously volunteered their valuable time and knowledge to the journal, its contributors, and, more broadly, the scientific endeavor. Seventy-three reviewers shared these invaluable resources in 2021:

Lene Aaroe  
Craig Albert  
Roberto Andorno  
Talbot Andrews  
Jonathan Anomaly  
Kevin Arceneaux  
Melissa Baker  
Bert Bakker  
Toby Bolsen  
Brandon Bouchillon  
Mark Boukes  
Mitch Brown  
Timothy Callaghan  
Melani Cammett  
Stephen Christman

Aleksander Ksiazkiewicz  
Marika Landau-Wells  
Nan Li  
Mary-Kate Lizotte  
Keith Lyle  
Jordan Mansell  
James Marshall  
Susan Blair Martin  
Rose McDermott  
Steve Mock  
Susan Murray  
Hannah Nam  
Carl Palmer  
Cynthia Pando  
Arash Pashakhanlou

Katie Daughters  
Chris Dawes  
Martin DeJong  
Dan Demetriou  
Kevin Elliott  
Colin Farrelly  
Luke Fowler  
Amanda Friesen  
Sam Fuller  
Claire Gothreau  
Ingrid Haas  
Christopher Hare  
Allison Harrell  
Stefanie Hassel  
John Heslen  
John Hibbing  
Matthew Hibbing  
Lorien Jasny  
Aaron Johnson  
Reuben Kline  
Margaret Kosal  
Jaimie Krems

Steven Peterson  
Angel Saavedra Cisneros  
Christina Sagioglou  
Jaime Settle  
Kevin Smith  
Zachary Steinert-Threlkeld  
Patrick Stewart  
Paul Thagard  
Stephen Utych  
Kathleen Vogel  
Aaron Weinschenk  
Dane Wendell  
Ann Williams  
Laura Williamson  
Christopher Wirz  
Daniel Wisneski  
Alexander Wuttke  
Michael Xenos  
Matthew Zefferman  
Xia Zheng  
Leor Zmigrod

In 2021, the journal celebrated its fortieth anniversary of publishing. In review, the journal received submissions from 14 different countries including countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Half of submissions came from contributors based outside the United States. While the acceptance rate varied by article type, the combined acceptance rate for Research Articles and Research Notes was about one in three. Mounting evidence suggests open access (OA) articles, which are freely available online, receive relatively greater attention from other researchers, including citations (e.g., Atchison & Bull, 2015). To expand the impact of the journal and its authors, in 2021 the editorial team intentionally promoted OA publication to authors eligible for no-cost OA through one of Cambridge University Press’ “Read and Publish” agreements. In the first year of this effort, seven *PLS* articles were published OA.

Of other note, volume 41 marks the journal’s long-expected transition to online-only publication. Forty years of hard-copy print is a significant tradition to turn away from, but this transition was a contractual part of the move to Cambridge University Press, which has brought the journal many important benefits. Further, the editorial team welcomes Asheley Landrum, Assistant Professor of science communication at Texas Tech

doi: [10.1017/pls.2022.8](https://doi.org/10.1017/pls.2022.8)

University, to the new role of Associate Editor for Letters. Letters are brief, scientific reports (up to 1000 words) about an emerging research topic in biopolitics. They are structured and argued scientifically with appropriate citations and are strictly non-partisan. The move to online-only publication is especially beneficial for Letters as they now become more accessible as part of each issue instead of only appearing on a special page on the *PLS* Cambridge Core website. It also welcomes Gigi Gronvall to the Editorial Board. She is a Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. As well, the editorial team gives its sincerest thanks to Amy Fletcher, who leaves her role as a long-time Associate Editor of *PLS*. The journal and countless contributors have benefited from her thoughtful advice.

Finally, the editorial team thanks the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, the scientific society that founded *PLS* and has supported it for the last 40 years, including a special program that has regularly funded selected research in recent years. And it thanks Cambridge

University Press, the journal's publisher, for its ongoing support and promotion of the journal and the scientific endeavor in 2021.

## References

- Atchison, A., & Bull, J. (2015). Will open access get me cited? An analysis of the efficacy of open access publishing in political science. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 48(1), 129–137.
- McDermott, D. (2022). Breaking free: How pre-registration hurts scholars and science. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 41(1), 55–59.
- Parma, V., & Arceneaux, V. (2022). Science interrupted: Our attempt to study disgust sensitivity and the development of political attitudes among children and their parents. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 41(1), 3–14.
- Rubenson, D. (2021). Tie my hands loosely: Pre-analysis plans in political science. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 40(2), 142–151.
- Stewart, P. A., Blank, R. H., Bucy, E. P., & Fletcher, A. L. (2022). In memoriam: Steven Ames Peterson. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 41(1), 150–151.