British Journal of Political Science

All manuscripts should be submitted via our online system, Editorial Manager at: http://bjpols.edmgr.com

Contributors should note the Journal's editorial policy, which is as stated below.

Editorial Policy

The British Journal of Political Science is an independent journal, whose policy is set by its editorial team with the approval of its editorial board. It is committed to no methodological orthodoxy over and above the normal canons of scholarship: clear and consistent use of words, logical and mathematical validity, and the use of appropriate evidence to substantiate empirical statements. Contributions are invited in all fields of political science and political theory, except the history of political thought. Innovative and authoritative work addressed to problems of general significance to students of politics will be published whatever the period(s) or place(s) drawn upon for evidence. The Editors reserve the right to decline articles if, according to their own judgement, they are inconsistent with editorial policy.

Articles

When submitting a piece to the Journal, authors are required to indicate the category into which their manuscript falls:

The Journal usually publishes two types of articles: research articles and letters.

Research Articles should generally be between 4,000 and 10,000 words in length. Research articles above 10,000 words will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

Letters are short (up to 4,000 words) and highly accessible articles making a big point shortly and succinctly.

The Journal will also on occasion publish Comments in response to BJPolS research articles or letters.

Some issues of the Journal also contain a 5,000 to 12,000 word Review Article – either a detailed discussion of a single book or a review of the state of some area of the discipline.

An abstract not exceeding 150 words is required for all types of articles. Please also include 5-7 keywords.

NOTE: Please include all word counts in total. Programs like TexCount separate word count between main text, figure and table captions and footnotes. Be aware that this software notoriously underestimates word counts, struggling to properly estimate the word count produced when entering in-text references. Monterey Language Services provides a free (and fairly accurate) word count tool for counting words in PDFs.
Peer Review and Anonymity

Manuscripts are initially assessed by an editor. If the editor decides to send out a manuscript for review, the Journal applies a double-blind process usually involving at least two referees.

To maintain a double-blind review process, an anonymous version of the manuscript will be sent to reviewers. For the anonymous version, authors should remove any self identifying information, such as authors' names and affiliations, acknowledgements of funding or gratitude to specific readers and conference audiences, as well as links to personal or university websites that are affiliated with any of the authors. Authors may retain citations to their own work, if the citations are made in the third person. That is, the anonymous version of Dr. Patel's manuscript would cite her work as follows: "Patel (2014) argues that..." rather than "In my earlier work (Patel 2014), I argue that..." or "AUTHOR (2014) argues that..."

All manuscripts submitted to the journal will be run through plagiarism detection software.

Style

Anyone preparing a manuscript for submission to the Journal is urged to follow the Journal's style guide, which covers a number of detailed points concerning footnotes, punctuation, spelling, etc. The Journal uses the in-text system for references.

A LaTeX style file is now available for use in preparing manuscripts for the Journal, and can be obtained here.

Alternatively try writing in the BJPolS template in the online authoring tool Overleaf (http://bit.ly/2eK7D90): this helps authors adhere to style guidelines and collaborate with co-authors - more details below.

Overleaf

Overleaf is a free online tool for writing and submitting scholarly manuscripts. A BJPolS article template is available in the tool, which allows authors to easily comply with the journal’s guidelines. Overleaf is based on LaTeX but includes a rich text mode: an author writing would need to have some knowledge of LaTeX in order to use it but could collaborate through the tool with an author who is not a LaTeX expert. Other benefits of Overleaf include: an intuitive interface; version control and a typeset preview of the article; collaborative features (sharing with co-authors; highlighting and commenting on sections of the text).


Overleaf provides support for authors using the tool. At the end of the process, you will be guided to submit files into the BJPolS Editorial Manager system.

Charges

There is no charge for publishing figures in colour in the online version of the Journal. However, authors who choose to have figures in their article printed will need to pay a fee for colour printing. This fee is set at £200 per colour image (which is capped at £1000). If you request colour figures in the printed version, you will be contacted by CCC-Rightslink who are acting on our behalf to collect Author Charges. Please follow their instructions in order to avoid any delay in the publication of your article.
English Language Editing Services

Authors, particularly those whose first language is not English, may wish to have their English-language manuscripts checked by a native speaker before submission. This is optional, but may help to ensure that the academic content of the paper is fully understood by the editor and any reviewers. We list a number of third-party services specialising in language editing and/or translation, and suggest that authors contact as appropriate.

Please note that the use of any of these services is voluntary, and at the author's own expense. Use of these services does not guarantee that the manuscript will be accepted for publication, nor does it restrict the author to submitting to a Cambridge Core published journal.

Replication Policy

The British Journal of Political Science (BJPolS) is a signatory of the Data Access and Research Transparency (DA-RT) statement, promoting data sharing and research transparency in Political Science. The journal thus maintains a strict policy requiring authors of accepted articles using quantitative data to provide all data and code necessary to reproduce their results.

Authors of accepted articles using quantitative data are required to deposit (1) their data, (2) the codebook or any other relevant description of the data, which includes information about the source of the analysis data and instructions for extracting the analysis data from source data, (3) a file containing the exact and detailed commands used by author to reproduce all tables, figures, and exhibits (i.e., “do” or “run” files), and (4) a file containing the actual output from the statistical software used (i.e., “log” or “output” file) on the BJPolS Dataverse:

https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/BJPolS

Authors may post the data on their own websites as well, but the version cited in the article must be the Dataverse one. Please include the following sentence following the acknowledgments:

“The data, replication instructions, and the data’s codebook can be found at https://dx.doi.org/doi xxxxxx.”

Where “xxx” is the article-specific DOI generated by Dataverse.

Authors are encouraged to include additional information such as mentioning, listing, or describing any specialized software that competent scholars in the field might need to reproduce the results. The replication material has to be deposited on Dataverse as soon as possible after the acceptance of the manuscript.

Articles are held back at the copy editing stage until the replication materials are deposited and it has been checked that these materials have been properly deposited in Dataverse.

A step by step walkthrough for using the BJPolS Dataverse can be found here.

Additional materials that are non-essential to the replication of the published results, but which could be of interest to readers, can be provided as supplementary material with the article. These materials will be posted on the Cambridge Core platform alongside the article.

All analyses reported in the BJPolS are open and available to the scientific research community. Authors are not allowed to withhold information that has been used to perform an analysis featured in a BJPolS piece. Exemptions may exist, and can be granted, however in the case of restricted-access source data. Under those circumstances, the BJPolS Editorial Board will consider allowing an
exception to the general policy of full data access upon the author’s request. There may be other situations in which an exception is warranted and the editorial team will consider those if author(s) can show specific reasons why sharing data immediately is problematic. Nonetheless, given the importance of transparency and replicability to the *BJPolS*, the strong presumption will be against such exceptions.

These instructions may probably not cover every possible situation that may arise, although they should be sufficient for most quantitative data analyses that are reported in the *BJPolS*. We also acknowledge that not all articles might be straightforwardly covered by DA-RT, which is why the *BJPolS* is equally sensitive to the needs of authors working in non-quantitative traditions. Any questions about the replication policy may be directed to the *BJPolS* Editorial Staff at jayned@essex.ac.uk.

Having built a strong reputation over 40 years for taking a pluralistic view on both theoretical viewpoints as well as methodological approaches, we continue to encourage researchers of all traditions to submit their work to the Journal.

Citing data

Upon uploading replication data to the *BJPolS* Dataverse, the author will receive the citation information for the data – including a DOI:


This should be placed in the article’s reference list and ordered alphabetically. Please replace the DRAFT VERSION with V1 and include the universal numerical footprint (UNF) if one has been provided:


The data should also be cited in a separate section headed ‘Supplementary Material’ before the reference list.

A further separate section before the reference list headed ‘Funding’ should list any acknowledgements of research support / assistance, e.g. ‘Support for this research was provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (Award no. ***). Replication data is available at Gandrud 2017.’

Proofs

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