

Canadian Journal of Political Science
Annual Report
English Language Editorial Team

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In our Annual Report presented in Halifax in June 2003, we highlighted two significant problems facing the Canadian Journal of Political Science: (1) a sizeable backlog of close to 40 articles awaiting publication in the *Journal*, resulting in unacceptable wait lengths of up to three years between submission and publication; and (2) a secular decline in the number of new submissions received by the *Journal*, with 66 new submissions received in 2002, well below the historical 10 year average of 73 between 1992 and 2002. This decline from a high of 85 in 1997 presented a long-term challenge to the Association and the viability of the *Journal*.

At the Halifax AGM, plans to deal with both issues were presented. With the help of the CPSPA Executive and Board, significant changes to the *Journal's* style and format, and approval of a special, supplementary, issue of the journal had been planned in December 2002 as measures to deal with the backlog. A marketing plan was also developed to help deal with the issue of a decline in new submissions, including the development of reciprocal ads with cognate journals throughout the world, expansion of the *Journal's* Editorial Advisory Board, and development of web-based systems for manuscript submission and tracking.

We are pleased to report at this time, that implementation of these plans in 2003 has generated remarkable results, and that further development of these plans over 2004 are expected to accelerate these positive trends, ensuring a smooth transition to a successful *Journal* when the term of the current English Language Team expires in June 2005.

First, let us report on the issue of the backlog and the success of measures developed in 2002 to deal with this issue. In this area we were successful in producing five issues over the course of 2003, rather than the usual four. And, in addition, font and format, and style changes allowed each issue to contain as many as eight English Language articles, rather than the four to five published in previous years. The net result was that the *Journal* published 35 English Language articles in 2003 rather than the more typical 16-18. By itself this cut the backlog from over 35 articles to closer to 20, meaning that turnaround times from submission to publication were reduced from close to three years to close to 1.5 years, the target figure developed by the *Journal* editorial team in December 2002. This was a significant accomplishment for which our Editorial Staff and Copyeditor are to be thanked. Special thanks for this accomplishment are also due to the *Journal's* Administrative Editor, John McMenemy and to the Publisher, Brian Henderson, and the production staff at Wilfrid Laurier University Press, who not only caught up with a two to three month publishing backlog caused by the 2002 strike at WLU Press, but did so while doubling the output of the *Journal* over the course of the year. Assuming that rejection and publication rates remain the same or higher given the increase in the number of new submissions over the year (see Appendix I for data on acceptance rates), the efforts made this year should take care of the backlog problem for the foreseeable future.

Second, we would like to report that the measures undertaken in 2003 – the move to electronic manuscript submission, review and copyediting; the encouragement of submissions from book reviewers and manuscript reviewers, and the development of reciprocal advertisements with close to 20 journals in Canada and the world – appear to have generated significant results. We are pleased to report that the number of new submissions received by the *Journal* in 2003 was a 35% increase over 2002: moving from 66 new submissions to close to 100. Ninety five new submissions were received in 2003 and we are pleased to report no overall loss in quality

associated with the increase in new submissions (see Appendix I for 10 year data on *Journal* submissions)

This is excellent news for the *Journal*. However it still falls well below our target of between 125-150 submissions and we intend to continue working throughout our term in office to raise the number of new submissions. In this regard, three of the most important developments to occur in 2004 will be: (1) the doubling of the number of members of the Editorial Advisory Board which is the subject of a CPSA constitutional amendment proposed for the 2004 AGM; (2) the shift of the *Journal* to a new publisher; and (3) the movement of the *Journal* towards 100% WWW-based manuscript reviews and tracking.

On the first issue, we would urge all of you to support the amendment currently before you and to describe its significance to your colleagues. A much larger Editorial Advisory Board will help to raise the profile of the *Journal* both within Canada and internationally and hence help to increase the number of submissions. At the same time the expansion, by providing a larger pool of experts upon whom the editors can call for quick reviews, will facilitate the speedier turnaround of articles through the review process, again hopefully leading to an increase in new submissions as word of positive author experience with the *Journal* spreads.

On the second issue, current plans to move the *Journal* to a new, larger, publisher with increased international exposure in both print and electronic formats also involve the development of marketing plans designed to increase the number of individual and institutional subscriptions. These plans and increased exposure will also help to raise the profile of the *Journal* and attract new manuscript submissions.

On the third issue, the English Language team has now completed the development and installation of its own proprietary WWW systems for manuscript tracking and book reviews. These systems were rolled out for general use on January 1, 2004 and are currently being translated into French, with the expectation that all four systems will be in place shortly. The new systems greatly facilitate manuscript submission and tracking, both for authors and journal staff. They reduce the amount of editorial assistance required for the *Journal* at the same time that they help to speed up production. We expect the world-wide ease of access to the new systems and the efficiencies created by these new procedures, as well as their symbolic dimension, will again enhance the reputation of the *Journal* and further help dispel concerns about turn-around times, hence also contributing to an increase in the number of submissions made to the *Journal*.

On the book review front, the number of books reviewed in English in 2003, although still quite healthy, has been lower than in 2002, dropping from 120 to 83. There are two reasons for this variation. The first is that in 2003 the *Journal's* priority was to reduce the backlog of manuscripts and, therefore, the review section was somewhat shortened. The second is that the new book review editor (L. Dobuzinskis) has adopted a slightly different approach to the selection of books than was followed in the past. A low priority is assigned to books written by non-Canadian authors on comparative politics (especially, US politics), insofar as these books are reviewed in other journals. It is also the case that the number of French language reviews increased over the year from 29 in all of 2002 to 43 in the first four issues of 2003, so that the overall number of reviews has remained approximately the same. Now that the backlog has been reduced, the book review editor firmly intends to increase the number of reviews in 2004, without seeking to exceed the 2002 statistics.

REVIEWS	
Canadian Politics	11
Canadian Public Policy/Admin./Urban	16
Political Theory/Philosophy/Hist. of Thought	28
Political Theory/Empirical/formal	3
IR	19
Women/gender	11

REVIEWERS	
CDN	69
US	10
OTHER	4
TOTAL OF REVIEWS ¹	83

In 2004, we anticipate two new challenges facing the *Journal* editorial teams. These are (1) the retirement of the Administrative editor and the move from WLU Press to a new publisher and (2) the need to renew the *Journal's* three year SSHRC publication grant.

Finally, an annual report would be remiss without thanking the reviewers and authors of *Journal* articles and submissions, without whom a project such as the *CJPS* would be impossible. We would also like to thank our two excellent editorial assistants at SFU, Russ Williams and Greg Clarke, for their invaluable assistance in all phases of *Journal* publication, and our Copyeditor, Carina Blafeld, for her excellent work with manuscripts and authors. And, of course, we would like to thank John McMenemy and Michelle Hopkins for their help with the administration of the *Journal*. Last but not least, we hope that each of you will continue to consider the *CJPS* as a possible venue for publication of your own research and look forward to receiving your articles, research notes, field analyses, discussion points and commentaries at some point in the near future.

Attachment: 1994-2004 data

¹ The total of the categories is greater than the numbers of reviews because some books fall in more than one category.

Canadian Journal of Political Science

Annual Report -Francophone Team

Manon Tremblay, Co-Editor

Christian Rouillard, Book Review Editor

The francophone team, consisting of Manon Tremblay (co-editor) and Christian Rouillard (book review editor), has been working since the June 2003 issue.

Table 1 presents the manuscripts that were submitted for possible publication in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* between June 1, 2003 and April 17, 2004. A total of sixteen texts were submitted. Among them were two that are currently being assessed. Three were accepted for publication and three more must undergo major modifications before being published. Finally, eight manuscripts were rejected either by the co-editor or the referees. Most texts were about "Theory/Political Thought", followed by "Law and Public Policy", and "Comparative Politics (Industrialized)". Finally, "Local and Urban Politics", "Public Administration", "Comparative Politics (Developing)" and "Women and Politics" were each the subject of one article. No manuscripts were submitted on "Canadian Politics", "Political Economy", "Provincial and Territorial Politics", "Political Behavior/Sociology" or "International Relations". The three texts that will be (or have already been) published are about "Law and Public Policy", "Comparative Politics (Industrialized)" and "Theory/Political Thought".

As indicated in Table 2, a total of fifty-three (53) reviews in French were published between March 2003 and December 2003. For reasons already mentioned, there were five issues in 2003. Following the practice initiated by its predecessor, the number of reviews remained unchanged at a minimum of ten (10) per issue. Generally, the results have shown that different fields of political science were relatively balanced, although the number of books reviewed in fields such as "Women and Politics" and "International Relations" will have to increase. The number of reviews per issue will be kept at ten (10) in 2004, and one of our objectives is a better balance between the different fields.

Table 1

Manuscripts submitted and published by field, June 1, 2003 – April 17, 2004

	Articles submitted	Articles accepted for publication
Canadian Politics	0	0
Political Economy	0	0
Provincial and Territorial Politics	0	0
Local and Urban Politics	1	0
Political Behavior/Sociology	0	0
Public Administration	1	0
Law and Public Policy	3	1
Comparative Politics (Industrialized)	2	1
Comparative Politics (Developing)	1	0
International Relations	0	0
Theory/Political Thought	7	1
Women and Politics	1	0
Total	16	3

Table 2

Book reviews published by field in 2003 (March, June, Special Issue, September and December).

Fields	
Canadian and Quebecois Policy	12
Public Administration and Public Policy	10
Theory, Philosophy and Political Thought	15
International Relations	7
Comparative Politics	6
Women and Politics	3
Total	53

