

Political Perspectives - Blog Editorial Policy

1. Purpose

Political Perspectives' mission is to create a space for reflective, diverse and dynamic academic exchange. *Political Perspectives* aims to engender lively intellectual conversations across different aspects of political studies and to reflect the emerging research agendas of upcoming academics.

Political Perspectives is a space to showcase early-career researchers' work on different aspects of political science, broadly defined. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions across all sub-disciplines. Prospective authors might be guided by the questions addressed by our research clusters: comparative politics, critical global politics, political theory, global political economy. Yet, *Political Perspectives* also encourages approaches from other fields of study in the social sciences that have a significant relevance to politics. All theoretical positions and balanced approaches to research are welcomed.

As a postgraduate-led journal, *Political Perspectives* ensures a rigorous review process, while fostering an environment of constructive and collaborative feedback. We seek to provide opportunities for early-career researchers to take part in both sides of the review and publication process.

Political Perspectives' approach to academic communication combines journal articles, blog posts, and multimedia research. Blogs can be an important initial output to facilitate further engagement and stimulate interest with wider reach.

The aims of *Political Perspectives* Blogs are to;

- create a space for reflective, diverse and dynamic academic exchange about a variety of different political perspectives and approaches to studying Politics
- foster a sense of community and connection, amidst researchers, and drive accessibility towards wider audiences
- promote a wider understanding and awareness of early career research, from Manchester, and elsewhere
- facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge and expertise between researchers
- create opportunities in publishing, reviewing and editing for young researchers

In view of this, we ask authors to discuss their reasons for writing a blog – and their desired outcomes - with us in the first instance.

2. Key principles

All published blogs should adhere to the key principles below.

- **Contact us before writing a blog.** Researchers intending to write and submit a blog, should speak to us first about the central idea/argument/angle, so we can offer guidance and support, and discuss a potential publishing date. A submission form is available for this purpose. This will help avoid a drawn-out editing process that can result from unsolicited submissions that don't meet our requirements, which can cause frustration. We undertake to respond to all inquiries about potential blogs within 5 working days.
- **Blogs must be no more than 1,000 words – and, ideally, shorter.**
- **We cannot guarantee to accept or publish unexpected, unsolicited blogs.** While we will still review them (we aim to do this within 10-15 working days), due to workload across the team, we are increasingly unlikely to be able to publish unsolicited blogs on demand with no or little notice.
- **Focus on your area of substantive expertise.** We expect contributors to write on topics and areas in which they have substantial and recent academic research expertise.
- **Ensure a clear contribution to research – empirical, theoretical, or reflective.**
- **Blogs don't represent a corporate view.** Blogs will give the views and opinions of the author(s), and not the position of *Political Perspectives*, relevant funders, nor The University of Manchester.
- ***Political Perspectives* reserves the right to make a final editorial decision.** An expression of interest by the team in a blog being written, and/or a commitment to review a blog submitted does not automatically guarantee it will be published. Where we decide not to publish a blog, the reason(s) will be discussed with the author, and we may suggest alternative outlets for publication.
- **Declaration of interests.** Where authors have been undertaking work – paid or unpaid – for an organisation or body, which relates to the issue being discussed in the blog, this should be declared.

3. What type of blogs do we want?

We aim to publish blogs which contribute to academic research, reflection on the research process and academic perspectives on current social, political and economic affairs, and theoretical questions.

We are looking for engaging, easy to read blogs that provide research-based analysis and insights, or academic reflection. They should be a maximum of 1,000 words long, and ideally shorter.

We particularly encourage blogs related to our five guiding clusters (critical global politics, democracy and elections, comparative politics, global political economy, and political theory), and themes promoted annually by *Political Perspectives*.

We will draw primarily on the community of academics and researchers at The University of Manchester, and also welcome contributions from those working at other universities and other research organisations.

As part of our commitment to decolonise and diversify the disciplines of politics, we aim to foreground voices that have traditionally been excluded or marginalised in academia. Therefore, we welcome contributions from junior scholars who identify as belonging to an under-represented group.

It is expected that posts will contain some degree of opinion, but views expressed and claims made must be clearly linked back to relevant research and evidence. We positively encourage posts that stimulate and encourage lively debate where academic rigour is demonstrated.

4. What makes a good blog post?

The best posts typically have the following elements:

- **Relevance** – A clear link to a current, substantive issue or debate
- **Research** – A new piece of research evidence, angle of analysis, and/or reference to an academic debate or body of work, and/or relevant to current political issues
- **Reflexivity** – Reflection on the processes of academia, and construction of knowledge
- **Readability** – Direct and informal in order to be accessible to as wider audience as possible.
- **References** – Some links to additional sources and useful evidence to support your arguments. *Please include these as links, not as standard academic references.*
- **Reach** – As interactions become increasingly remote, in the context of Covid-19, we seek to foster a sense of community and connection, amidst researchers, and drive accessibility towards wider audiences

5. Blogs not suitable for *Political Perspectives*

Blogs based overly on personal experience or peripheral interests, that do not engage with broader academic considerations

Blogs that have no relevance to current political perspectives

Blogs that simply describe or criticise an issue, but do not engage with wider debates, contribute substantive empirics, reflexivity, or extend theory

6. Academic freedom

As a unit within The University of Manchester, *Political Perspectives* adheres to the core principle of academic freedom (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=16238>, but also the

University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech
(<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11846>).

7. Submission Process

Assuming that an initial discussion of the proposed blog has taken place (see Key Principles above), when the initial draft is sent, it will be acknowledged by a member of the *Political Perspectives* team within 5 working days.

Blogs submitted will be reviewed by a member of our pool of editorial reviewers with specialism in the topic discussed, who may edit the piece to enhance readability for the blog's wider audience or provide comments to help improve the piece's academic contribution.

These edits and comments may include:

- Shortening of text if the article is above our stated 1,000 word limit
- Removal of specialist jargon or overly academic language that might confuse the reader
- The addition of a narrative-style title to sum up the post's main findings
- The addition of short introductory paragraph outlining the article's author, their main arguments and findings, and any relevant background information for readers.
- Re-ordering of content to bring the main arguments to the top of the piece
- A sharper and more explicit focus on the key aspects of the issue
- Suggestions for refocusing the piece or emphasising a particular point discussed
- Critical comments on the academic content of the pieces which should be considered or incorporated into the narrative

Where edits are made, the final version will be sent back to the author for approval. Occasionally, further information may be requested. Once you have submitted a post, **please ensure you are available in the subsequent 5 days to respond to suggested edits and suggestions** that are sent to you by the *Political Perspectives* team.

Once articles are published, we are very happy to make further edits afterwards should the author deem them to be necessary. However, in the interests of transparency, these changes will be indicated.

8. Further consultation

Where there is any concern about the content of a blog submitted, and/or whether it falls within the scope of *Political Perspectives'* remit, publication may be delayed in order to seek further advice from advisors.

It may also sometimes be necessary to consult with appropriate University staff.

If this happens, and publication is likely to be delayed, the author(s) will be informed.

Occasionally, it may not be possible to agree a final version of a blog which an author is happy with, and which meets our requirements outlined in the Editorial Policy. In these instances, we will advise authors on how articles could be adjusted to meet our criteria, and/or suggest alternative outlets.

9. Promoting your published blog

Political Perspectives will promote your blog initially and then regularly, once published, via its primary channels. However, greater reach is achieved when the author also promotes the blog through their own channels, and asks and encourages key people in their networks to do the same.

10. Timescales

One of the purposes of having an initial discussion with a member of the team before writing a blog is to discuss a publication date that suits both parties and, importantly, helps maximise its reach.

Where this process has been followed and a specific publication date has been agreed, we will always endeavour to the best of our ability to ensure a blog goes live on this date and that it is adequately promoted via our channels.

However, there may be some occasions where this is not possible due to competing and unforeseen demands and priorities within the *Political Perspectives* team. Where this is the case, we will communicate this to the author(s).

While we do not encourage unsolicited submission of blogs that have not been discussed with someone in the team, and we cannot guarantee to publish them in any form, we will endeavour to assess and respond to these within 10 working days.

11. Republishing policy

Where we receive requests for articles to be republished by third parties, we will check with the author(s) before granting permission. We request an attribution and link back to our blog site for all re-published blogs.

12. Review

This Editorial Policy will be reviewed regularly in line with our core strategy, purpose and activities, and feedback and comments are welcomed.

13. Contacts

To discuss your idea for a Blog, please email political.perspectives.uom@gmail.com or complete our online submission form.

Date: September 2021