

Political Perspectives - Journal 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, and 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.

Contributions are accepted on a rolling basis across the above clusters. A thematic call for papers is released annually to centre discussions on a salient issue.

As a postgraduate-led journal, *Political Perspectives* ensures a rigorous and double-blind peer-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.

By participating in *Political Perspectives* as a reviewer, editor or author, you will become part of a community committed to sharing knowledge and expertise among early-career researchers.

2. Key principles

All articles should adhere to the key principles below.

- **Articles submitted are encouraged to conform to our latest themes.** As detailed in the aims and scope, *Political Perspectives* seeks to publish articles which match a pre-announced thematic emphasis. In the first instance, potential contributions are encouraged to have relevance to the current themes of the journal and, where appropriate, this relevance should be drawn out and made explicit.

However, submissions related to our cluster questions, will additionally be considered on a rolling basis.

- **Complete our submission form before writing a *fresh* journal article.** Researchers intending to write and submit an article which they are producing from scratch, should complete our submission form first giving information about the central idea/argument/angle, so we can offer guidance and support, as well as advice on its fittingness with our current themes in order to avoid disappointing desk-rejections. If you are submitting a piece which you have already written or drafted, you can do so directly. Contacting us in advance does not guarantee your paper will not be rejected later on in the review process. We aim to respond to all inquiries about potential articles within 10 working days.
- **Ensure a clear contribution to research – empirical, theoretical, or reflective.** *Political Perspectives* aims to ensure a high-quality of academic articles which clearly make an original contribution to research. See section 3 below
- **All articles will undergo editor review.** If your article conforms to our themes and clearly displays a potential contribution, it will enter the double-blind review process (see section 6 below). Regardless, you will receive a response as to whether we are going ahead with the review of your contribution within 10 working days.
- **If they adhere to our standards and scope, articles will undergo double-blind review.** Therefore, articles should be prepared for this process and anonymised.
- **Articles must conform with our submission guidelines (available on our website <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/political-perspectives/>).** These include guidelines on formatting and referencing style. In addition, authors should provide an accompanying submission form or cover letter detailing their name, affiliation and the details of their article.
- **Articles don't represent a corporate view.** Articles will give the views and opinions of the author(s), and not the position of *Political Perspectives*, relevant funders, or The University of Manchester.
- ***Political Perspectives* reserves the right to make a final editorial decision.** An expression of interest by the team in an article being written does not automatically guarantee it will be published, no matter how far along it is in the review process. Where we decide not to publish an article, the reason(s) will be discussed with the author, and we will endeavour to 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 article intended for publication, this should be declared.

- All articles will undergo a test for plagiarism.

3. What type of articles do we want?

As stated in our aims and scope, our primary goal is to provide Early Career Researchers experience of the publishing process in a supportive and collaborative environment. However, we only seek to publish articles which make a contribution to research in line with our announced themes.

Articles should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words in length, including the bibliography and footnotes. If articles fall considerably outside this range then they will be immediately rejected for rewriting.

Research notes or commentaries are meant to be short interventions (4,000 - 6,000 words) that address a specific and pressing point in current public or scholarly debates. These papers are concise and focus on communicating the author's insight and ideas clearly and directly.

We publish theoretical and empirical articles, whether focused on primary or secondary research. Articles should be clear, engaging and their relation to our themes must be explicit. In addition, the work must be original and of a high standard, offering a novel perspective of insight into established or new debates in the discipline of Politics.

We will draw primarily on the community of academics and researchers at The University of Manchester, but we 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.

Articles should be well researched and supported by contemporary research. If further literature is required to support the argument this will be indicated in the review process.

4. Articles not suitable for *Political Perspectives*

- Articles don't engage with academic debates or reflections, or are guided by the author's peripheral interests.

- Articles that have no significant relevance to our current themes and scope or the study of Politics.
- Articles that simply describe or criticise an issue, but do not engage with wider debate, contribute substantive empirics or extend theory
- Articles which promote or incite hatred or violence.
- Articles which fail to adhere to the University's policy on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=8361>)

5. 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>).

6. Submission and Review Process

Political Perspectives operates a double-blind review process for all articles which are publishable.

1. Articles should be submitted to us via email at political.perspectives.uom@gmail.com. An accompanying submission form with the authors name, affiliation and the details of the article should be provided while the article itself should not have any identifying information. Ideally, articles should be submitted in Word format to allow for easy review. See our formatting guidelines on our website for more information on how to present your paper.
2. Once submitted to us, our lead editors will make an initial assessment of the suitability of the article in line with our aims and scope and communicate to the author whether the article will proceed through our peer-review process, or not. In the case of desk-rejections, the reasoning will be clearly communicated.
3. If the article passes this initial acceptance it will be passed on to a minimum of two peer-reviewers. These reviewers are also Early Career Researcher who will not know the identity of the author. The reviewers themselves will also be kept anonymous.
4. The peer-reviewers will make comments on the submission in order to assess what changes need to be made to the article and whether to accept it. These comments will be provided in a constructive and supportive manner, highlighting what the piece does well and where it requires improvement.
5. The decision on whether to accept the article, with information on what reviews should be made, will be communicated to the author by our lead editors within 30 working days. In the case of a disagreement between the reviewers, our lead editors will make an adjudication.
6. In most cases where articles are accepted, a degree of revision will need to take place by the author before publication. In cases of minor revision, the author should

make these changes and send the paper back to us. In cases of major revision, the article will be resubmitted and undergo the review process once more. In general circumstances, authors are requested to make these changes and send their paper back to us within 60 working days.

Once final papers are submitted to us by the author, with revisions complete, our editors reserve the right to do the following:

- Minor rephrasing or restructuring in order to improve the fluidity and professionalism of the paper.
- Reformatting according to our policies
- Tweaking spelling and grammar
- Formalising language and including, defining or removing specialist jargon where appropriate
- Critical comments on the abstract and presentation of the article in line with our thematic focuses

If considerable edits in line with our formatting guidelines are still required we may request that the author complete this and send their paper back to us.

Where considerable edits by our team 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 days to respond to suggested edits and suggestions** that are sent to you by the *Political Perspectives* team. Once articles are published, we will not be able to make further edits afterwards until the piece is republished in our final annual volume. Following this, no further edits will be possible.

7. Further consultation

Where there is any concern about the content of article 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 members of our Editorial Review team, or rarely, University staff. If this happens, and publication is likely to be delayed, the author(s) will be informed.

Rarely, it may not be possible to agree a final version of an article 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.

8. Promoting your published articles

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

9. 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 journal site for all republished articles.

If you have previously published with *Political Perspectives*, and would like to list your work on your institutional repository or as a chapter in a book, you must submit a reprint request.

All requests for permission to reprint or republish the Contribution not covered by the provisions of the preceding paragraph, whether in paper or electronic form, must be made in writing (by mail, email, or fax). To request permission to reprint or republish, please provide the following information:

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- Indicate if request is to reprint or republish in print, electronic, CD-ROM, and/or other format;
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If permission to reprint or republish the article is granted, an appropriate acknowledgement must be given to stair in the form of the following statement prominently displayed on the paper itself:

“Reprinted with permission from: Author. Title of Article. *Political Perspectives*; Vol: No. Year, pages. © Year by *Political Perspectives*”

10. Review of Policy

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

11. Contact

For any questions or queries contact us at political.perspectives.uom@gmail.com

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