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International Political Science Review 2011 32: 123

DOI: 10.1177/0192512111408383

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32(2) 123–124

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The articles in this issue speak to international governance, language politics, media, policy and electoral campaigning. Some of them tell a particular political science story; others look for causal explanations: the central themes in Theodore Lowi's reflective article on the potential of political science in the world.

In 'Human Trafficking: The Unintended Effects of United Nations Intervention', Charles Anthony Smith and Heather M. Smith study the increase in sex trafficking that accompanies the participation of UN-mandated forces in crisis zones. Situated in the study of international relations, it also draws on the global human rights literature to discuss this feature of the UN presence in Kosovo, Haiti and Sierra Leone. The article points out that UN intervention, generally intended as protective action, often has the unintended consequence of contributing to serious human rights transgressions. It suggests that in seeking to reduce and eliminate the involvement of UN personnel in sex trafficking, a more systematic monitoring of trafficking patterns in conflict regions is required.

Tristan James Mabry's article, 'Language and Conflict', is based on the premise that language is a valuable proxy for culture in the study of ethnic conflict. In this article, he critically examines the evaluative measures developed by David Laitin and James Fearon to quantify language differences among conflict groups based on distance from ancestral language. Employing a sociolinguistic matrix to analyse language politics, he seeks to demonstrate the analytical deficiency of the rational choice approach of Laitin and others to the subject. He argues that it is the social and political status of languages that matters in a conflict context, and not language ancestry.

Politicians' use of the media is the focus of Toril Aalberg and Jesper Strömbäck's 'Media-driven Men and Media-critical Women? An Empirical Study of Gender and MPs Relationship with the Media in Norway and Sweden'. In this comparative study, they explore three hypotheses: that male MPs have a more familiar relationship with the media compared to female MPs, that female MPs are more critical of the relationship between politics and the media, and that different approaches to gender equality in the two countries may influence how female and male MPs relate to the media. Based on a survey of the entire universe of MPs in both countries, they found that male MPs have more contact with journalists than their female peers, and that this is more pronounced in Norway than in Sweden. The authors conclude that gender differences in media relationships may suggest gender differences in political power and influence – a matter of concern for gender equality.

The importance of groups' capacity for policy formulation and implementation is the starting point of Darren Halpin, Carsten Daugbjerg and Yonatan Schwartzman's study 'Interest Group Capacities and Infant Industry Development: State-sponsored Growth in Organic Farming'. The key question in this article is whether, and how, groups develop the capacities necessary to contribute to policy-making. Taking policy on organic farming as a case, the article examines how

different policy strategies affect the way in which organic industry groups have evolved in the UK, Australia, Sweden and Denmark. Their study finds that groups engage in a significant amount of adaptive behaviour so as to remain relevant to policymakers. In addition, they demonstrate that group capacity is a dynamic process developing over time in response to the evolution of policy. This claim counters the widely held view that group capacity is rooted in historical contexts and conditions.

Explaining when and why political parties engage in negative electoral campaigns is the subject of Christian Elmelund-Præstekær's article 'Issue Ownership as a Determinant of Negative Campaigning'. The article focuses on an under-researched aspect, the control of the issue content of electoral campaigns. In analysing four Danish elections, it shows that parties with ownership of the campaign issues are more likely to employ a positive rhetorical style than parties with less ownership of the issues. Although context remains an important factor in shaping campaigning style, the content factor adds nuance to the general understanding of when and why a party turns to negative campaigning.

The issue concludes with an essay from former IPSA president Theodore Lowi that reviews the past, present and future of political science. In 'Where Do We Go From Here?' he emphasizes the political nature of the discipline, and the important function of national political science associations in taking a critical view of political developments, such as the turn to authoritarianism. He argues that the role of the International Political Science Association, is to speak for all of political science, countering the force of authoritarianism at moments when national associations are unable to do so effectively.

This issue marks a progression in the affairs of *IPSR*. On the inside front cover of this issue, you will see a significant change: we have a new Editorial Board. Most members of the outgoing board served two terms, that is, six years, and some had given their time and advice to *IPSR* for longer than that. We are most grateful for their service and look forward to their continued assistance as reviewers and advisers. Like the outgoing board, the new 33-person Editorial Board is composed of distinguished political scientists from all regions of the world. Their foci of regional and thematic expertise reflect the incredibly diverse and vibrant character of our discipline. We are most grateful to them for accepting our invitation and look forward to receiving their wise advice on strengthening the journal.

Their first task is to assist the editors of *IPSR* to choose the recipient(s) of a new award that the journal is creating. The Meisel-Laponce Award honors John Meisel and Jean Laponce, the first two editors of *IPSR*. It is jointly sponsored by the International Political Science Association and SAGE Publications. IPSA, SAGE, and *IPSR* are enormously grateful to Professors Meisel and Laponce for having created the journal more than thirty years ago and directing it for many years subsequently. Guided by the Editorial Board, the editors of *IPSR* will select the best article published in *IPSR* since the 2009 IPSA World Congress. The author(s) of the prizewinning article will be invited to receive the award at a reception hosted by SAGE during the next World Congress, to be held in Madrid in July 2012. The recipient(s) of the Meisel-Laponce Award will be announced in a future issue of *IPSR*.

We hope our readers enjoy the contents of this issue, and welcome the new developments in *IPSR* as a sign of the vibrancy of this journal and of global political science.

Yvonne Galligan