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## In this Issue

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This issue of *IPSR* is a departure from our recent practice of providing a yearly issue devoted to reviews of recent books on significant topics in political science. We have invited Leonardo Morlino, Björn Dressel and Riccardo Pelizzo to be guest editors of a special issue devoted to analyzing the quality of democracy in East Asia. As readers of *IPSR* know, while the analysis of transitions to and consolidation of democracy continues to be of great current theoretical and political relevance (as witness, the Arab Spring), political scientists have broadened our focus to considering the extent or quality of democracy. Interest in the topic was prompted by the discovery that many authoritarian regimes have adopted the trappings and to some extent the reality of democratic institutions while retaining important elements of authoritarianism. In brief, in many cases what has been consolidated is not democracy but a hybrid regime. Leonardo Morlino, one of the guest editors of the special issue, was among the early contributors to our understanding of this question — at the same time that he has sought to understand how to tip the balance of hybrid regimes toward more democracy. The editors of *IPSR* decided to provide an opportunity for Leonardo and his colleagues to apply the framework that he had developed to analyzing the quality of democracy among a cluster of East Asian regimes. This one-off special issue is the result.

We would like to repeat two important announcements made in past issues of *IPSR*. First, Yvonne Galligan is stepping down as co-editor of *IPSR* and IPSA, *IPSR*'s sponsoring organization, has organized a search for her replacement. The new editor will be expected to continue contributing to the journal's efforts to improve the quality of scholarship that it publishes and the breadth of its audience throughout the world. IPSA's Publications Sub-committee, chaired by Mikhael Ilyin, will be interested in knowing what plans the new editor has for building on this success and further raising the profile and standing of the journal during her/his term of office.

It is expected that the journal editor will:

- Actively acquire manuscripts
- Select appropriate peer reviewers from *IPSR*'s reviewer pool to evaluate submissions
- Make decisions regarding publication of submitted manuscripts
- Edit manuscripts to ensure that they are presented in acceptable English
- Develop ideas on the journal and its position in political science

Candidates for the position should have:

- a record as a distinguished academic in her/his field
- a demonstrated commitment to international political research
- previous editorial experience and be fluent in written English
- familiarity with the work of IPSA and its Research Committees

The successful candidate will be expected to become an individual member of IPSA, help prepare an annual report that is presented in person to the Executive Committee of IPSA, contribute to IPSA's Publications Committee, and participate as a nonvoting member in IPSA's executive committee (which meets once or twice annually). The editor will be provided with an honorarium and adequate resources to meet expenses associated with these commitments.

Enquires can be made to Mikhail Ilyin (Mikhaililyin48@gmail.com) and Mark Kesselman.(mjk3@columbia.edu). Applicants should e-mail Professor Ilyin a CV and an accompanying statement describing their goals for taking *IPSR* forward. The closing date for applications is 31 December 2011.

Second, we are delighted to announce again the winners of the Meisel-Laponce Award. IPSA, *IPSR*, and SAGE organized the award to honor John Meisel and Jean Laponce, the first two editors of *IPSR*. The award was for the article in *IPSR* judged by the editors and the *IPSR* editorial board to be the most significant contribution since IPSA's XXI World Congress of Political Science, held in Santiago, Chile, in 2009. The winners of the Meisel-Laponce Award are Jørgen Møller and Svend-Erik Skanning, for their article 'Beyond the Radial Delusion: Conceptualising and Measuring Democracy and Non-Democracy.' The award will be given to Professors Møller and Skaaning at IPSA's XXII World Congress, to be held in Madrid, 8-12 July 2012. We congratulate Professors Møller and Skaaning for considerably advancing our understanding of democratic theory and practice. A link to the winning article, as well as the five other articles nominated by the editors, is available on *IPSR*'s home page (<http://ips.sagepub.com>).

Yvonne Galligan  
Mark Kesselman