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The current issue of *IPSR* continues our tradition of publishing articles studying diverse issues within political science, written by scholars from around the world who develop a wide variety of approaches and deploy multiple methods and methodologies. Following the summary of this issue's contents, we provide several announcements.

The issue opens with Carolyn Forestiere and Christopher Allen's 'The Formation of Cognitive Locks in Single Party Dominant Regimes'. Working within the historical institutionalist/path dependent tradition, Forestiere and Allen study policy paradigms that, because they are embedded in sturdy institutional networks, shape the character of policy orientations in a durable fashion. By comparing Italy and Sweden, they seek to identify the conditions under which cognitive locks may develop in single party dominant regimes. Comparing the two cases provides suggestive evidence of how the character of the ruling coalition in a single party-led regime influences the scope of the resulting cognitive lock.

The publication of 'Cognitive Locks' sadly occurs several months after Christopher Allen passed away. Chris was a superb scholar, teacher, and institutional citizen (as well as a good friend). For years, he maintained a demanding teaching and research schedule while undergoing treatment for the illness that eventually claimed him. 'Cognitive Locks', Chris' last published work, is eloquent testimony to his impressive scholarly accomplishments.

In 'The Effects of Compulsory Voting on Turnout Stratification Patterns', Ellen Quintelier, Marc Hooghe, and Sofie Marien ask whether making voting compulsory reduces inequalities in electoral turnout associated with the usual stratification suspects of education, gender, and age. An analysis of turnout data from a survey of 36 countries produces mixed results. Compulsory voting does little to reduce the marked disparity in turnout between the educated and less educated. It also has little impact on gender differences in turnout. In most of the countries surveyed, women vote in nearly the same proportions as men regardless of whether voting is voluntary or compulsory. The one dimension where compulsory voting makes a difference is age. Since the young typically turn out to vote far less than do older citizens, one might expect that compulsory voting would reduce the generational gap. While Quintelier, Hooghe, and Marien find that making voting compulsory does have an impact, it is the opposite of what one might expect. Their article is fine testimony to the fact that, rather than confirming common sense, empirical research may produce quite counterintuitive results.

Steinar Askvik, Ishtiaq Jamil, and Tek Nath Dhakal's study of citizens' trust in public institutions in Nepal questions whether the extent of trust is more closely linked to citizens' social and political identities or to their perceptions of institutional performance. They find that variations in the level of trust are only weakly related to citizens' social and political identities. On the other hand, the extent of trust is highly correlated with citizens' evaluations of the performance of public institutions. Their study raises the chicken-and-egg question – one that a cross-sectional study cannot

answer – of whether a pre-existing reservoir of trust promotes a positive evaluation of institutional performance or whether superior institutional performance shapes trust. A question long pondered by students of comparative politics!

William Case's 'Electoral Authoritarianism and Backlash' might be sub-titled 'Against Teleology'. Case's comparison of authoritarian reversals in Malaysia and Thailand suggests that there is no escalator carrying countries from authoritarian hell to democratic heaven. However, this does not mean that it is not possible to analyse the causes of reversals. A key factor – long ago identified by O'Donnell and Schmitter (as Case points out) – involves relations among members of the elite. Contrasts in patterns of inter-relations among elite groups in Malaysia and Thailand illuminate what might otherwise appear to be unpredictable [or inexplicable?] regime changes in these countries.

In 'Electoral Institutions and Growth Volatility', Sergio Béjar and Bumba Mukherjee shed new light on a frequently studied issue in comparative politics and political economy: the relation between political institutions and economic growth. They suggest that volatility in growth rates, a key factor affecting economic performance, varies significantly between majoritarian and proportional representation electoral systems. Béjar and Mukherjee join scholars who identify shortcomings in majoritarian systems, this time because it adversely affects economic growth. They claim that the incentive structure in majoritarian systems encourages leaders to engage in sub-optimal practices, in this case, promoting volatile political business cycles. The article provides chapter and verse about how and why.

We would like to report several developments. First, in consultation with *IPSR's* newly revamped Editorial Board, the editors have selected the recipient of the first Meisel-Laponce Award. The award recognises the best article published in *IPSR* since IPSA's 2009 World Congress. The winners are Jørgen Møller and Svend-Erik Skaaning for their article, 'Beyond the Radial Delusion: Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy and Non-democracy' 31:3 (2010). We congratulate Professors Møller and Skaaning for considerably advancing our understanding of democratic theory and practice. The winning article, and the five other articles nominated by the editors, are available on *IPSR's* home page (<http://ips.sagepub.com>). The award will be presented at IPSA's next World Congress at Madrid in July 2012.

We call readers' attention to two recently created online features of *IPSR*, both accessible at *IPSR's* home page. Online First posts articles prior to their publication in a print issue of *IPSR*. *IPSR's* home page provides open access to a link listing abstracts of the article. Access to the PDF texts of the articles is also provided, but access is limited to subscribers to the journal or to those who access the journal through libraries which subscribe to *IPSR*. By shortening the gap between the date when articles are accepted for publication and published in a print issue, Online First provides a substantial benefit to authors of articles and readers of the journal.

IPSR has recently launched a link on the journal's home page to what we designate as Editors Choice Selections. The feature identifies several articles published in *IPSR* within the past decade on a theme that the editors judge to be among the most significant in the discipline. A few themes will be chosen each year, and Sage provides open access to a selection of articles on the theme. The first theme in Editors Choice Selections is 'Regimes and Regime Change'.

Lastly, we announce an impending editorial transition at *IPSR*. Yvonne Galligan, who has served as one of *IPSR's* two editors since 2006, will be serving until next year. IPSA has organized a search for her replacement and invites applications. The new editor will join Mark Kesselman from July 2012 for a four-year (renewable) period. The intention is to select the new editor by the IPSA World Congress to be held at Madrid in July 2012. There will be a transition period of several months following the editor's appointment to enable familiarisation with the editorial process.

As readers know, *IPSR* is a generalist political science journal published by SAGE Publications. It publishes excellent scholarship on all fields within political science. Contributors are located in all regions of the world and the journal actively seeks to maximise diversity in its authorship and readership. The journal is quite selective; it currently accepts less than one in five articles submitted for possible publication.

Since 2009 *IPSR* has introduced a number of innovative features that promote the journal while also making more of its content available as open access. 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. Mikhail Ilyin, chair of the *IPSR* Editor Search Committee (a sub-committee of the IPSA Publications Committee), and his colleagues 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;
- Oversee the peer review process using the ScholarOne Manuscripts online management system;
- 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;
- Work collaboratively with key personnel at SAGE, in particular the Production Editor, Marketing Manager and Managing Editor;
- Develop ideas to strengthen the journal's 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 non-voting 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.

Enquiries can be made to Mikhail Ilyin (Mikhaililyin48@gmail.com) and Mark Kesselman (mjk3@columbia.edu). Applicants should email Professor Ilyin a CV and an accompanying statement describing their goals for taking *IPSR* forward. The closing date for applications is 1 December 2011.

Mark Kesselman