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In This Issue

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In This Issue

Welcome to the first annual review issue of the *International Political Science Review*. From now on, the fifth issue every year will be devoted to review articles by five distinguished scholars. This is the first such issue.

The purpose of *IPSR* review articles is to provide scholars with an ongoing review of major contributions made by political scientists in different countries to various areas of our discipline. The exercise provides an opportunity for a thoughtful analysis of the development of political science scholarship in particular subjects. Reviewers have been asked to help identify major debates and fault lines within an area of study, as well as recent theoretical and methodological innovations and substantive findings. Although a measure of criticism is offered, every book included has been identified as important and in most respects well done.

We are very pleased to be beginning with such an excellent and interesting array of topics, books, and areas of expertise. In this issue, a total of 27 recent books written by authors from a dozen different nations are discussed in critical detail. The topics are both timely and timeless, traditional and cutting edge. Peter Emberley considers five books of political philosophy focussed on the challenges presently faced by Western civilization and the possibilities of its salvation (with frequent nods to its dominant religion). The four books covered by Jorge Heine offer penetrating critiques, *from outside*, of the foreign policy of the principal actor in the West, the United States. Matthew Paterson reviews five books that demonstrate that we have reached a new stage of debate and controversy in global environmental politics, the stage of the “ecopolitical dilemma”: although we know what must be done, we do not yet know how to achieve consent and compliance in a global economy based on growth.

The final two review articles cover books that update our understanding of key agencies of democratic politics: equitable representation and party politics. Yvonne Galligan explores four books that discuss the under-representation of women in political decision-making bodies: the “gendered nature of representation.” Finally, although he claims it was difficult to find books that met his criteria, Steven Wolinetz in fact finds nine books on political parties that seem to him to offer important new ways to understand the contemporary versions of that seemingly essential yet always vexing tool of democratic government.

We trust you will join us not only in welcoming this innovation in editorial content, but also another, this time in editorial direction. As you may have noticed on our masthead throughout 2007, Dr. Yvonne Galligan of Queen’s University

Belfast has joined us as Co-Editor. Her well-honed editorial and administrative skills (she was Program Chair for the 2006 General Congress of our parent body, the International Political Science Association, and she is currently Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Women in Politics at Belfast) have rapidly made her an indispensable co-participant in all the work of editing *IPSR*. Her own scholarship in women's studies is strongly comparative and internationally known and respected. We are very pleased she has agreed to join us: the January and March issues for 2008 have now been assembled under her direction.

As we welcome Dr. Galligan we know we speak for our readers and contributors as well as for ourselves in giving heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Dr. James Meadowcroft of Carleton University for his eight years of service to the journal as Co-Editor. His careful guidance of manuscript after manuscript to publication, his insightful and creative ways of spurring on the growth and change we have worked together to bring to the journal in recent years, and his unfailing courtesy and humor are all qualities we will deeply miss. The idea and realization of this latest innovation, annual review article issues, are very much owing to him. For *all* of this, thank you, James.

Kay Lawson