

## Continuity and change

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Welcome to Volume 28. This issue marks my first as editor and first of the “new era” of science-friendly policies championed by the Obama Administration. If the president’s pronouncements hold true, we are about to witness “the largest commitment to scientific research and innovation in American history,” comparable to the Sputnik-inspired space race, as he told a recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

Although the economic recovery that will drive this presumed era of resurgent innovation is still a ways away, the coming years should be good for interdisciplinary research, which has always been a hallmark of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. Already, the climate for biologically based research has tangibly improved with the loosening of Bush-era restrictions on stem cell research, a move that was widely hailed by the scientific community. Two articles published in this issue, summarized below, address this very debate.

In the spirit of innovation and reinvention, the journal has embraced a new outward look, fitting for the new times, and will now take advantage of the digital printing process at Allen Press by using color images on the front and back cover. My thanks to Kelly Calohan and the Allen Press production team for facilitating this welcome transition, which will allow us to print suitably themed photographs or full-color artwork on the cover of each new issue.

With issue 28(1) we are also introducing a new logo for the association, designed by APLS members and rendered by former editor Rob Sprinkle, who continues as our Contributing Editor for Electronic Publishing. The Parthenon-like structure presiding over a school of DNA “fish” effectively captures the politics and life sciences motif. Biology, the logo visually suggests, is the foundation of political life. Kudos to Rob for effectively illustrating this important sentiment.

As part of the redesign, we have added a subtitle to the journal’s name. *Politics and the Life Sciences*, as indicated on the front cover, is “a journal of political behavior, ethics, and policy.” This designation does not

signal any substantive change; the range of work the journal publishes will remain broad and interdisciplinary in scope. But it does help highlight our major areas of interest, however, and how potential contributors might position their work for submission.

With this issue I am also pleased to announce the addition of six new and one returning editorial board members: Ted Brader of the University of Michigan, Mary Clark, previously of George Mason University, Kevin Hunt of Indiana University, Roger Masters of Dartmouth College, John Newhagen of the University of Maryland, Erik Parens of The Hastings Center, and Brad Thayer of Baylor University. As with the association itself, these new members bring diverse disciplinary outlooks and affiliations to the board, traversing anthropology, biology and bioethics, political science, political psychology, and communication research. We welcome their expertise and contributions. Of course, longtime readers will surely recognize Roger, who was one of the association’s founders and earliest board members.

As always, the journal will consider a variety of different contributions. Although research articles will remain the mainstay, book reviews, review essays, perspective pieces, commentaries, and suggestions for special forums are equally welcome. Under the journal’s new editorial structure, the editorial team now consists of myself, as editor-in-chief, and three contributing editors—for submissions and peer reviews, book reviews, and electronic publishing. This structure has already improved the journal’s overall workflow and should serve us well into the future.

Research submissions should now be sent by e-mail to Laurie Liesen, Contributing Editor for Submissions and Peer Reviews, at LiesenLa@lewisu.edu. If you have a submission or are interested in reviewing for the journal, please contact Laurie. Suggestions for book reviews, or review essays comparing two or more related books, should go to Richard Sherlock, our Contributing Editor for Book Reviews, at ruffie@cc.usu.edu. Queries on all types of submissions can also be sent to me directly at ebucy@indiana.edu.

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## *Continuity and Change*

Like any association, the membership of APLS has ebbed and flowed over the years but the journal, like the association, continues to thrive in the digital age. The journal's archival content, from 1982 to 2005, recently became available through JSTOR, while the issues since then are electronically accessible via the journal's website (<http://www.politicsandthelivesciences.org>) as well as the BioOne gateway. Interested readers without access to an institutional gateway are encouraged to subscribe to the journal for the modest rate of \$25, which provides online access for a year. Hard copies remain a benefit of membership in the association, still modestly priced at \$75 per year and just \$40 annually for students.

In another instance of reinvention, Ron White recently introduced a wholly redesigned web page for the association at <http://www.aplsnet.org>, which includes membership information, a research-oriented blog, news about conferences and biopolitics research, and an informative history of APLS. Ron, who serves as webmaster, has provided yeoman service to the association in recent years, including co-chairing the 2007 annual meeting in Cincinnati.

In terms of conferences, the association recently decided to return to a campus-based model of holding annual meetings on college campuses, as was successfully pursued at Indiana University in 2006. Look for an announcement posted to the association website about next year's APLS meeting possibly on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville.

As the incoming editor, I am honored to inherit a dynamic and interdisciplinary journal that is poised to assume a position of renewed visibility and intellectual leadership in the coming years. The tireless work of outgoing editor Rob Sprinkle was invaluable to the journal's vitality and continued viability over the past seven years, particularly in the development of the journal's website and efforts to secure representation in online databases.

Last year's issues were expertly edited by Steven Peterson, who continues to provide a steady guiding hand to the association. APLS Executive Director David Goetze has also been instrumental in the journal's continued success in recent years. Thankfully, I will have access to their perspective and advice as they continue in various capacities with the association, some more formal than others.

I attended my first APLS meeting in Boston in 1998, where I had the opportunity to hear an illuminating talk by Edward O. Wilson on the topic of consilience, the unity or "jumping together" of knowledge based on biological principles, after his book of the same title. I have belonged to the association ever since. Those meetings of a decade ago were heady times for the association, an energy that one can sense is returning to APLS and, with that, to the journal.

I hope you find this exciting nexus of research as intellectually stimulating as I have and actively contribute to the journal and association in the years ahead.

Finally, in this issue I am pleased to present four research articles that engage with topical issues in politics and the life sciences. The first two explore the contentious debate over stem cell research. Using a series of interviews with congressional staffers, Eileen Burgin first looks at the debate at the national level, analyzing the influences shaping voting decisions on the human embryonic stem cell research bill introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress—the first legislation vetoed by former President Bush. Bonnie Stabile offers perspective on debates at the state level, specifically in Kansas and Massachusetts, over legislation allowing or restricting human somatic cell nuclear transfer, or therapeutic cloning of stem cells.

Rounding out the issue are two articles in political behavior, one by David Hutchinson and Samuel Bradley that investigates the effects of negative compelling war imagery—images intense enough to attract an administration's attention—on viewer memory and cognitive resource allocation. Their results confirm the value of news visuals as a primary channel of viewer learning. Patrick Stewart, Frank Salter, and Marc Mehu synthesize the experimental research on nonverbal leader displays conducted over the past 25 years, especially considering the key ethological frameworks for understanding dominance relationships between leaders and followers and the role that nonverbal communication plays in politics and social organization.

These articles and more await your consideration.

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