

CJPS RCSP

Canadian Journal of Political Science

2014-2015 Annual Report

French team

Jean-François Godbout, French Co-Editor

Dominique Caouette, in charge of reviews in French

Jean-François Godbout (French Co-Editor) took office in June 2014. Dominique Caouette (in charge of reviews) took office in June 2011.

This report is on French manuscripts submitted between June 5, 2014 and April 15, 2015 for publication in the pages of the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

When the files were transferred on June 1, 2014, the situation was as follows: the authors of three manuscripts received before June 2014 had been invited to revise and submit a new version. Of these three, two were published (vol. 47 no. 4) and one is still being evaluated. My predecessor, Daniel Salée, looked after publishing the two texts in volume 47, no. 3.

Since I took office, twenty-seven (27) new texts have been submitted to the Journal. Since I don't have the data from the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 annual reports, I cannot easily make comparisons with the two previous years. Still, the Journal had received seventeen (17) manuscripts in 2011-2012 and twenty (20) in 2010-2011. This indicates an increase in submissions during that period (see Table 1).

Table 1: Number of manuscripts submitted, per year (2002-2015)

2014-2015	27
2013-2014	--
2012-2013	--
2011-2012	17
2010-2011	20
2009-2010	16
2008-2009	19
2007-2008	22
2006-2007	18
2005-2006	27
2004-2005	20
2003-2004	16

After evaluation, only one of these (27) manuscripts was accepted for publication. This text appeared in vol. 48 no. 1. The authors of two (2) texts were invited to revise and submit a new version of their study. Two (2) texts are still undergoing evaluation and twenty-two (22) were rejected. Among the twenty-two refused, twelve (12) were considered unacceptable in consultation with the journal's advisors. Table 2 provides a summary of these statistics.

Table 2: Summary of submissions (June 2014 – April 2015)

Published/accepted: 1
 Rejected: 22
 Undergoing revision: 2
 Undergoing evaluation: 2
 Acceptance rate: 4%

Table 3 presents the research fields represented by the various articles submitted to the Journal between June 2014 and April 2015. The two largest categories are Comparative Politics (emerging countries) and Theory and Political Thought. The third most popular field is International Relations.

Table 3: Manuscripts submitted and accepted for publication per field (June 2014 – April 2015)

	Articles submitted	Articles being evaluated	Articles refused	Articles accepted
Canadian politics	1	1		
Political economy				
Provincial and territorial politics	2		1	1
Local and urban politics	1		1	
Political behavior/sociology	1		1	
Law and political analysis	4	1	3	
Comparative politics (industrialized countries)	1		1	
Comparative politics (emerging countries)	6		6	
International relations	5	1	4	
Theory/Political thought	6	1	5	
Women and politics				
Total	27	4	22	1

Although the number of the submissions appears to have increased over the last ten years, their quality remains very uneven. The members of the Advisory Council have refused a very large number of texts that they judged unacceptable (12/27 or 44%). These texts were thus not submitted to the usual process of peer review. In many cases, the Committee judged that texts were not without merit but did not correspond to the expectations of Journal readers. If these

rejections are not counted, the number of submissions drops to 15. Three of them are still being evaluated, which means an acceptance rate of 1/12 or 8% for the period from June 2014 to April 2015. Furthermore, there have been a large number of submissions from non-Canadian universities. These account for about 60% (16/27) of total submissions.

General comments:

The objective of the French team is still to publish two articles per issue. Steps were taken to allow on-line submissions using the Cambridge electronic formula. In fact, Cambridge asked us to translate the whole platform, and that task far exceeds our mandate. The French Co-editor did begin to translate but Cambridge never acted on his recommendations. It is our sense, however, that the number of submissions would increase only marginally with this new option.

Accordingly, we must continue to encourage colleagues and students to submit articles to the Journal and put more emphasis on the publication of work in French. Finally, we hope to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Journal in 2018. A call for proposals of articles to mark this event on the French side will be issued shortly.