

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

French team report For the period from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012

Daniel Salée (Concordia)
Co-Editor, French Team
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Context

After being duly appointed and then elected by the General Meeting of the Société québécoise de science politique (which is co-owner of the Canadian Journal of Political Science) on May 20, 2011, I took over from Nicole Bernier as French co-editor of the CJPS on June 1, 2011, for a three-year term (until May 31, 2014).

The situation as of June 1, 2011

At the time of the handover on June 1, 2011, the situation was as follows:

- Four manuscripts initially received in 2010 had been accepted and were ready for publication. Two appeared in the September 2011 issue 2011 (vol. 44, no. 3) and the other two in the December 2011 issue (vol. 44, no. 4).
- The authors of five manuscripts received in late 2010 or early 2011 had been asked to revise them for resubmission. Four of these five texts were accepted during the summer and fall of 2011. Two were just published in the March 2012 issue (vol. 45, no. 1) and two will appear in the June 2012 issue (vol. 45, no. 2). The fifth manuscript was rejected.
- Five manuscripts were still being evaluated. Four have since been rejected and only one was returned to the author for revision and resubmission.
- Five other manuscripts had also been considered unacceptable and were rejected by Nicole Bernier.

Between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012

During the past year, the French CJPS team received 17 new manuscripts. Of these texts,

- One has been accepted and will appear in the September 2012 issue (vol. 45, no. 3).
- Four authors have been asked to revise and resubmit.
- Seven are still being evaluated (these were received in the last two months).
- Five have been rejected.

To sum up...

Since taking over from Nicole Bernier, I have handled 36 manuscripts (19 received in 2010-2011 and 17 in 2011-1012). To date, the results are as follows:

- Published and/or accepted : 9
- Rejected 15
- Undergoing revision: 5
- Undergoing evaluation: 7

Acceptance rate: 25%

Outlook for the future

In recent years, the presence of French in the CJPS has sometimes been irregular. Between 2007 and 2011 (vols. 40 to 44), three issues had three articles in French, eight had two, seven had one and two had none. Of course these variations depend on the supply of articles ready for publication at the deadline. In 2011-2012, the CJPS co-editors (English and French) agreed to reserve the space necessary for two articles in French in each new issue of the review. So far, this has not caused any problems. The September and December issues of volume 44 met this standard and so will the four issues in volume 45. However, in spite of the intention of preserving a prominent showcase for French political science within the CJPS, it must be admitted that there has been a relative fall-off in the number of French manuscripts submitted. Nicole Bernier told me that that she received between 20 and 25 manuscripts per year during her term of office, whereas I received only 17 in the first year of my term. At this rate, given the current acceptance rate, it will be difficult to assure publication of the desired number of articles in French in each new issue starting with volume 46. Cambridge University Press, the publisher of the CJPS, is ready to begin a promotional campaign for the journal among French-speaking political scientists internationally, to interest them in the articles published in the CJPS but also to stimulate submission of their own work for publication. I am hopeful that this promotional activity will help increase the supply of manuscripts in French. Nevertheless, French-speaking Canadian political scientists constitute the main source of potential manuscripts in that language. Nevertheless, a number of them choose to submit their work to the CJPS in English. Although this publication strategy can be defended in certain cases, it might be wise to reconsider this choice if we collectively think it important to maintain a constant French presence in the CJPS.

Text management

Cambridge University Press is currently involved in setting up an electronic portal entirely in French for text submission. Texts have already been managed electronically on the English side of the CJPS for several years, but on the French side, texts are still managed manually. Articles are submitted to the co-editor, who processes them according to her own system, so that text management depends essentially on her personal organizational methods. The electronic portal, which has proven its value on the English side, will make it possible to ensure both easier and more rigorous handling of French texts submitted to the CJPS.

Reviews

Dominique Caouette (Montréal) took over from Linda Cardinal (Ottawa) in June 2011 and now handles reviews of works in French. We are maintaining the goal of publishing seven or eight reviews in French in each issue, covering as far as possible the whole range of sub-fields of political science. Dominique is also working to facilitate the distribution of works for review directly from publishers to the proposed reviewers.

New English team

A new CJPS English editorial team will take over in June 2012, replacing James Kelly (Concordia), co-editor, and Francesca Scala (Concordia), in charge of English reviews. Graham White (Toronto) will be the new English co-editor, aided by assistant editors Carolyn Johns (Ryerson) and Peter Loewen (Toronto). Bryan Evans (Ryerson) will assume responsibility for reviews in English.

Cordially,

Daniel Salée