

study of strategic policy as a subfield of international relations.

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Editorial Note

Three years ago we began democratizing the editorial process of the *American Political Science Review* by expanding the number of scholars asked to referee articles and to review books. In particular, we have increased the number of young scholars participating in these disciplinary service roles. It is perhaps now appropriate to comment on the results of this new, broader approach.

First, and most obviously, the enlarged staff of reviewers has made it possible to reduce the turnaround time for both articles and book reviews. Additionally, and perhaps more important, we have found that young scholars are extremely professional, providing thoughtful, well-written evaluations that have been generally well received by our authors. Young scholars are generally better read in the current literature in their areas of expertise, committed less to one or another orthodoxy, and more careful in their analyses and assessments.

The area of most immediate concern as we embarked on the course of wide participation was its effect on the quality of both book reviews and referee reports on articles. There was certainly a risk that both might be of lesser quality than readers of the *Review* had come to expect. In fact, the results have been quite the opposite. We have determined that there is no correlation between the status of the reviewer and the complaints of book authors who feel that we have published unfair (usually unfavorable) reviews. In addition, of the numerous reviews evaluated by independent scholars as a result of an author complaint, there was no correlation between the status of the reviewer and the issues determined by the independent evaluators as errors or misjudgments. We add, in passing, that book reviews alone should not provide the sole basis for promotion and tenure decisions, regardless of the reviewer's status.

The evaluation of book reviews cannot be conclusive, however, as there is no way in which anonymity can be protected. With respect to articles, we are able to assess the results of our process more objectively, because all articles are refereed anonymously. Authors who have sub-

mitted articles to the *Review* are routinely asked to comment on the quality of the referee reports, copies of which are sent to the author with the editor's decision. The author of the article does not know the identity of the referees, and the same pool of scholars provides both article and book reviews.

In order to assess the connection between complaints and the status of the reviewer, we sampled these responses at two different points in time to determine whether formal status within the profession was related to what authors of articles judged to be ignorant or irresponsible evaluations. To our surprise, two-thirds of the referees deemed by authors to have written inadequate reviews were associate or full professors at institutions normally ranked among the top 20 political science departments in the nation. Approximately 85% of these complaints concerned tenure-rank faculty at major research institutions. In contrast, evaluations considered most helpful by authors of articles were to an unexpected degree by younger scholars and those from teaching, rather than research, institutions.

Such unexpected findings raise the possibility that younger scholars are more favorably disposed toward publication than older ones, so we reexamined the data to assess this factor. A very weak correlation exists between an author's evaluation of reviewers and a reviewer's evaluation of manuscripts, but no distinction between established and younger scholars emerges. Equally interesting, associate and full professors from major research institutions were slightly more likely to recommend acceptance or only minor revision than younger scholars.

It is clear that these findings will not settle the concerns of those who may feel that the editorial decision-making process should be reserved for older and wiser heads. Our experience over the past three years, however, has shown that with very few exceptions, the services provided by younger political scientists and those from other than major research institutions have added a new, welcome dimension to the process of scholarly publication in political science.

DINA A. ZINNES

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We are grateful to the following scholars who have served the *Review* as anonymous referees during the period from July 1, 1983 through June 30, 1984.

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Oran Young.

Frank Zagare, Marvin Zetterbaum, Nancy H. Zingale, Catherine Zuckert, Cliff Zukin.

Erratum

The names of several authors were inadvertently omitted from the table of contents in the June 1984 issue. The correct entries are:

Parliament and Political Support in Canada by Harold D. Clarke, Allan Kornberg, and Marianne C. Stewart.

Partisan Instability in Canada: Evidence from a New Panel Study by Lawrence LeDuc, Harold D. Clarke, Jane Jensen, and Jon H. Pammett.

Forthcoming in March

The following articles have tentatively been scheduled for publication in the March 1985 issue:

D. Brady, "A Reevaluation of Realignment in American Politics: Evidence from the House of Representatives"

B. Buena de Mesquita, "The War Trap Revisited: A Revised Expected Utility Model"

G. Caldeira, "The Transmission of Legal Precedents: A Study of State Supreme Courts"

H. W. Chappell, Jr., and W. R. Keech, "A New View of Political Accountability for Economic Performance"

P. Converse, "Power and the Monopoly of Information"

J. M. Hansen, "The Political Economy of Group Membership"

R. Inglehart, "Aggregate Stability and Individual-Level Change in Mass Belief Systems in the Level of Analysis Paradox"

T. Palfrey and H. Rosenthal, "Voter Participation and Strategic Uncertainty"