Editorial

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This issue, the first of 2011, marks some important changes in the editorial team of *Acta Politica*. First, our co-editor Kees van Kersbergen is stepping down at the end of his term. Kees, who succeeded Hans Keman as a co-editor in 2007, has greatly contributed to the further professionalization and internationalization of *Acta Politica* in the past decade. His global orientation as a political scientist and researcher have helped considerably to broaden the networks of contributors and reviewers that *Acta Politica* can now draw from. His broad interest in the discipline has also helped to preserve *Acta Politica*'s character as a general journal of political science, while at the same time maintaining a firm basis in the Low Countries. True to his international orientation, Kees has recently accepted an appointment at Aarhus University and has moved to Denmark. We do not see this, as we might have seen it a few decades ago, as a move to a distant foreign country. On the contrary, it is another sign that the world, in particular the world of political science, is getting smaller and smaller. We want to thank Kees wholeheartedly for everything he has done for *Acta Politica*, and wish him all the best for the future.

After saying farewell to one of its co-editors, a well-organized journal continues by announcing the incoming co-editor. We are very happy to welcome, as from this issue, Ingrid van Biezen as a new co-editor to *Acta Politica*. Ingrid is presently Professor of Comparative Politics at Leiden University. Before taking up this position, she has held positions at the University of Birmingham and has been a visiting professor at various universities in Europe and the United States. As a comparativist, she has a special interest in political parties and party systems, and theories of democracy and democratization. She has previously been a co-editor of the Political Data Yearbook of the *European Journal of Political Research*. As a co-editor, Ingrid will work together with Kees Aarts, who started in 2010.

The changes in the editorial team also mean that in 2011, for the first time since 2003, *Acta Politica* no longer has an editorial connection with the Free University of Amsterdam. As a consequence, the editorial office has moved now to the University of Twente. And this means: more important changes in the journal's editorial team.

As editors, we can speak from our direct experience with the day-to-day business of making the journal. Our publisher, Palgrave Macmillan, has set up a great online system for manuscript handling, from the first submission to the final proofs of the complete issue. But no matter how great this system is, someone needs to keep track of everything – push us for potential reviewers, ask us for decisions, pointing us to long turnaround times. That, and much more, is the work of the Editors' secretary. The editors of *Acta Politica* have been very lucky to have worked with one of the best, most accurate, pleasant and hard-working Editors' secretaries that we can imagine: Margriet Lambert of the Free University. With this issue, Margriet steps down after 7 years of service to *Acta Politica* and the political science community. We owe her very much. Bringing in her experience from working with Hans Keman for the *European Journal of Political Research*, she has, since 2003, made a decisive contribution to the smooth operation of *Acta Politica*. Her professionalism became clear once more last October, when we prepared the move to Twente at a meeting in Amsterdam. Online editorial system or not, Margriet showed how she kept a paper trail of every manuscript at each stage of the submission process, including all e-mail exchanges and annotated (with ink) when something needed special attention. Her efforts have greatly contributed to ensuring the timely publishing of *Acta Politica*. Thank you, Margriet, for all your work. We also say this on behalf of the people at Palgrave Macmillan – Guy Edwards and his team, who have repeatedly expressed their great satisfaction with the way in which *Acta Politica* was run.

Luckily, at the University of Twente, Janine van der Woude is more than prepared to take over Margriet's work. Janine works as secretary of the Department of Political Science and Research Methods, is familiar with the international political science community, and looks forward to taking up this new challenge.

Once more, we want to thank Kees van Kersbergen and Margriet Lambert for their invaluable contributions to the success of *Acta Politica*. We – Janine van der Woude, our book reviews Editor Fraser Duncan, and co-editors Kees Aarts and Ingrid van Biezen – look forward to continuing the efforts of our predecessors towards making an excellent journal.

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