Editorial

British Politics (2008) 3, 269. doi:10.1057/bp.2008.17

Welcome to another issue of *British Politics*. As usual, we are pleased to present a series of papers that deal with a diverse and contemporary range of themes and topics. In the first of our main articles, Tim Bale offers an interesting analysis of the modernisation of the Conservative party. Taking issue with the conventional literature on modernisation under David Cameron, Bale contends that the process of modernisation to date has, in fact, been less substantial than is commonly assumed to be the case. In a similarly thought-provoking piece, the second of our main featured articles, from Peter Squires, deals with the politics of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs), one of the main and most contentious policies to have been introduced by New Labour. In this, Squires charts the development of ASBOs from within a broader socio-political context, examining their connection both to New Labour discourse on anti-social behaviour, as well as to the construction of such behaviour generally.

Our third contribution, from Mark Shepherd and Robert Johns, deals with an intriguing question, and one particularly relevant to the media-driven age in which we live; namely, the impact on voting behaviour that might result from the inclusion of candidate images on voting cards. This issue is empirically tested against a range of potentially influential attributes, and raises an aspect of electoral reform that perhaps deserves more attention. The final main article for this issue is from Paul Cairney. This examines the nature of policy-making in Britain's post-devolution polity, and seeks to assess whether, and to what extent, devolution has produced a discernible change in policy-making style.

Following these main articles, our environmental issues paper comes from Tim Rayner, Duncan Russel, and Irene Lorenzoni. These authors examine the various challenges and dilemmas facing the government in its attempt to integrate climate change concerns into its transport policy, and provide an assessment of its successes and failures in this regard. Concluding this issue, our 'Beyond the Mainstream' paper comes from Dan Bailey and Guy Nason. Examining the use of Early Day Motions, this paper develops an original quantitative approach for assessing their utility as a measurement of internal party cohesion, and points to the potential use of such methods for examining deeper political processes in British politics.

Steven Kettell and Peter Kerr