Editorial

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Welcome to the fourth issue of the eighth volume of *British Politics*. Our first contribution for this issue comes from David Judge, and examines recent (re)conceptualisations of political representation relating to extra-Parliamentary activities around protests and demonstrations. The article considers the tensions between electoral and non-electoral claims to representation in respect of these activities, and discusses some of the various questions of legitimacy that arise as a result. Our second original article is from Patrick Seyd. This examines the theme of constitutional reform, and highlights the need for a unified account of constitutional change that can take account of its collective influence, effects and consequences. Here, the author promotes the use of an economic analysis that can bring together the various operating logics that underpin the activities of political institutions, and explores related issues of decision-making authority and accountability.

Our third article, from Matthew Goodwin and Gareth Harris, examines the socio-economic, political and demographic drivers of support for the British National Party in Wales. In contrast to results in England, the article's findings suggest that immigration-related concerns do not stem from the actual presence or proximity of immigrant and/or minority groups. Rather, factors such as structural economic disadvantage, political disenchantment and the perceived negative impact of immigration provide a more convincing explanation for the limited electoral appeal of the extreme right in Wales. Following this, our fourth contribution, is from David Seawright, who examines the dynamics of the 2011 Alternative Vote referendum campaign. Utilising LeDuc's conceptual map of the elements involved in a referendum campaign, the article argues that it was always likely that such a campaign would mirror a partisan bias. In particular, with a concomitant conservative bias towards the *status quo* for such plebiscitary questions, it is argued that it should have been obvious to the Liberal Democrat party, that the goal of electoral reform, as refracted through such a referendum campaign, was doomed from the outset.

Our final contribution comes from Matthew Lakin. Examining the rhetoric of the Conservative–Liberal Democrat coalition, the article considers whether the ideology of the coalition can be best described as liberal, and claims, to the contrary, that its political language is more closely related to that of conservatism.

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