Editorial

Comparative European Politics (2012) **10**, 525–527. doi:10.1057/cep.2012.32

The publication of this issue marks the completion of the first decade of *Comparative European Politics*. When we first began to talk (rather more than 10 years ago it has to be said) about the shape and scope of a new journal, we were confident that we were onto something. Nevertheless, there were some inevitable uncertainties with our proposed venture. Would *CEP* be able to emerge as a distinctive voice in European political analysis? Would we be able to build a new journal that was both rigorous in its standards and broad and inclusive in its approach to comparative politics? Would scholars turn to the journal for authoritative and innovative coverage of key research in the field? Would the journal be able to fulfil its ambition of achieving genuinely transatlantic and international reach? And perhaps most importantly, would the best scholars be prepared to send their best papers to this new journal?

Looking back over 10 years – and over 200 published papers and 10 special issues later – we are more than confident that we can answer these questions positively. Our opening editorial laid out a prospectus for a journal drawing upon and expanding the tradition of the comparative analysis of European politics that would be (i) genuinely pan-European in scope, (ii) without methodological or theoretical prejudice and (iii) cognisant of the political challenges of complex interdependence. If anything, we were taken aback by how quickly the journal came to be defined by these three characteristics.

It also became apparent quite soon into the life of the journal that papers published in *CEP* were being read and cited widely. The journal's inclusion in Thomson Reuters Social Science Citation Index provided formal recognition of this intuition. From our editorial vantage point, the consistently rising volume and quality of submissions offered us a very tangible confirmation that we were indeed onto something.

Papers published by *CEP* have been written by scholars from all over the world. We wanted very much to create a journal that would be genuinely cosmopolitan in terms of its authorship and properly global in its capacity to generate debate. We are delighted to report that the journal has played host to authors from some 25 countries. Roughly, a quarter of the pieces in the journal have been published by UK-based authors. Another 25 per cent of papers have come from the United States. The Dutch, German, Scandinavian, French and Belgian political science communities have been especially well represented

and, looking ahead, we are keen to expand the journal's geographical scope yet further.

The journal has kept to its initial promise to uphold the principle of methodological pluralism. We are particularly proud that *CEP* has been able to publish papers from across the methodological spectrum and we remain committed to the simple (but often neglected) principle that there are many valid ways to do rigorous political science. For us it remains a continuing article of faith to ensure that papers are evaluated in their own terms and not according to the criteria of methodological opponents.

As we think about the future intellectual agenda for *CEP*, we note that much of what we laid out 10 years ago in our opening editorial remains as valid as it was back then. The challenges of globalizing and Europeanizing processes remain acute. Contemporary European politics is multi-level in character and continues to be defined by questions of domestic transformation, adaptation and resistance in light of complex interdependence. How we should understand and explain these institutional, policy, sociological, administrative and normative challenges is the fundamental question that continues to define this journal. Whether we can answer this question with the tried and trusted toolkit of political science is another issue about which *CEP* has had much to say. The journal will need to continue to explore the pros and cons of both methodological innovation and interdisciplinarity if it is to be able to address fully the agenda laid out here.

We should also use this space to report two further innovations to the journal. First, we are very pleased to announce that with effect from Volume 11 (2013), *CEP* will publish six issues per annum. This move reflects, in part, the increasing volume of high-quality manuscripts that we process. But it is also designed to create more potential space for special issues without compromising the room available for standard research articles. We receive many high-quality proposals for special issues – more than we can accommodate – and have recently produced a guide for prospective guest editors. Anyone interested in proposing a special issue to us should read this guide before contacting us (see www.palgrave-journals.com/cep/special_issue/special_issue_proposals.html).

Second, we are delighted to announce a new initiative in conjunction with the Council for European Studies research network on European Integration and the Global Political Economy. *CEP* will, subject to normal review processes, publish the winning entry from the network's annual PhD paper competition. This is an opportunity developed specifically for PhD researchers in early stages of their career, to support publication of excellent work among younger scholars.

Finally, we need to acknowledge some debts. Palgrave Macmillan has been a truly outstanding publisher and we look forward to continuing our very

productive partnership with our production and marketing colleagues for a very long time. We also benefit from a highly supportive editorial board, which has helped us to develop *CEP*'s distinctive agenda. Our day-to-day editorial chores have been made considerably less burdensome by our outstanding journal administrators: Leah Ramirez in New York and first Diane Martin and now David Moon in the United Kingdom. The task of delivering *CEP* would be impossible without the dedicated professionalism of the hundreds of referees that have worked with us over the past decade. And thank you too to all of the authors who have sent their work to us.

Colin Hay
Ben Rosamond
Martin A. Schain