Editor's note

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With now seven issues under my belt, I remain amazed at the dedication of guest editors, authors, associate editors, and reviewers even throughout these incredibly challenging times. The journal continues to grow, diversify, and improve its performance. For example, in 2020, we nearly doubled the number of downloaded articles from 24,589 in 2019 to 49,763 in 2020. And the word is getting out about content to as wide an audience as possible with a mores systematics presence on twitter. The lineup of events organized by the French Politics Group of the American Political Science Association for this year's meeting in the Fall, presented at the end of this issue, including two virtual roundtables—a memorial to Robert Elgie's work and an author meets critics roundtable—as well as a day-long in person pre-conference shortcourse on the gilets jaunes, further punctuates and reinforces the movement of the international study of French politics from strength to strength.

This double issue, I must say, is my favorite thus far for a number of reasons. First and foremost, for the incredible teamwork and dedication of the guest editors—Céline Belot, Pierre Bréchon, and Frédéric Gonthier all from the University of Grenoble Alpes/Sciences Po Grenoble, Pacte. With an original 7 submissions, the editors began their journey under Robert Elgie's editorship in Spring 2019. Thus, this special issue represents a continuity with Robert's important work so sadly ended in the summer of 2019. The editorial team recontacted me at the end of 2019 informing me that Robert had given them the greenlight to pursue a special issue in which scholars would conduct cutting-edge quantitative analysis on French values change using the European Values Survey. When I first heard from the team, I was impressed by the proposed group of scholars and excited about the potential impact of a special issue on such an important scholarly agenda. An agenda continues the strong tradition of the journal in promoting a dialog between comparative and international political science and empirical understanding of French Politics.

We agreed on a tentative timetable and followed the SOPs of all special issues of the journal. Guest editors contact me with a proposal, and I consider with at least one Associate Editor whether we should send it out for review. Next, I work with the guest editors to send submissions out through the regular review process. While

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the guest editors may recommend reviewers, they are not informed of who actually reviews each piece—thus the double-blind review process remains in-tact. I make my recommendation based on the reviews to the guest editors, and then, they work with each author to move the piece through the regular review process under my watch. As with all proposed articles to the journal, none of the submissions were accepted on the first round and one piece was rejected, a possibility which is always present for any SI contributor. One of the pieces successfully went through a second round of revisions.

Two years after the initial contact, we now have a tour de force that makes deep theoretically-based contributions to understanding value change and shifts over the past forty years in France across a broad swathe of values, both core and political. The collection of articles also makes contributions to the way we understand political values in democracies and the benefits of the European Values Survey more broadly speaking. The extremely high quality of this issue assures that this collection stands to make a lasting imprint on the study of political values inside and outside of France. It also reinforces and contributes to the strong tradition in French Political Science of survey research and the close links between survey researchers in France and at the European level.

I would also like to point out that all three guest editors are based at Sciences Po Grenoble and all but one of the contributing authors work outside of Paris, proving wrong yet again that there is some sort of deep divide in approach and quality between Paris and the provinces in political science. All of the contributors, as well, are French born and/or are based at French institutions. Therefore, this issue challenges long-held and often highly stereotypical notions that French political scientists are insular and even against internationalization. Indeed, the dedication and wherewithal of the editorial team and contributors in the face of a highly challenging review process demonstrates that French Political Science is operating at the pinnacle of global political science. I would like to thank here the three guest editors for their incredible stick-to-itiveness, responsiveness, and pursuit of excellence. I have greatly enjoyed and valued the nearly two-year scholarly journey with the team. Therefore, for this special issue, the bar has been raised even higher for future SI editors.

I am also thrilled about this issue for the additional three pieces that will be published here. Pascal Koenig and Thomas Waldvogel's research article on candidate positions in the 2017 elections is a clear compliment to the focus of the special issue and gets our readers primed for the upcoming 2022 electoral cycle. The two authors have been remarkably patient in the face of an unforeseen administrative logjam on their article. Our second book review article by Andy Smith provides a priceless roundup of the three recent state of the field books on French Politics—yes three!! Andy's deep experience as a senior researcher and professor at the University of Bordeaux and as past president of the French Political Science Association, his continuing important scholarship—including a new book with Manchester University Press, *Made In France: Societal Structures and Political Work* to be discussed at the APSA meetings—and dual Franco-English perspective means that this review will further strengthen the study of French Politics and stands to become a highly cited classic piece in its own right in years to come.

Returning to the journal's commitment to showcasing the work of emerging scholars, our review editor Isabelle Guinaudeau has recruited another up-and-coming scholar, Mikaël Durand, to provide a cutting edge of review scholarship on political participation and LGBTQI issues, another conduit into the focus of the Special Issue. Emerging scholars were among the contributing authors to the Special Issue.

In closing, I think that once you read through this double issue, you will agree with me that the theoretical and analytical power of the special issue on values and the connections between the three articles and the SI mean that this double issue will be an outstanding stand-alone work to be used by teachers and scholars in its entirety. As always, much gratitude to all who participated in the realization of this double issue, including the tireless production staff under Sumathi Ratanabai's able direction at Springer.

And please remember, I welcome questions, concerns, and comments about the journal. For more information on the journal, go to our website at <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/journal/41253> There are many articles there for free download, including a collection of gender and politics essays.

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