Editor's note

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With our last issue of this turbulent year, we bring to the table a trio of articles for our Data and Measures Section, under the able editorial supervision of Michael Lewis-Beck. The goal of this section is to provide a deep descriptive dive into a focused area of the study of French Politics. While still going through the same rigorous peer-review process as regular research articles, these shorter pieces provide the opportunity for authors to share key data and empirical mapping.

The three articles offered to our readers in this issue focus on the heart of power and politics—elections and cabinet appointments—through the lens of new and cutting edge objects of analysis for the study of French Politics as well as for Political Science more broadly speaking. Martin Haselmayer focusses on emotions, a relatively new issue for election studies, in the campaign for the 2017 presidential election. The piece by Régis Dandoy and Trudi Kernalegenn covers new and innovative ground on multiple levels; examining elections for French consul delegates a quite unique type of election, and the Internet voting process for foreign nationals. It is no surprise that this article, in its ‘online-first’ version, already has 670 accesses; a figure that is quite high even for published articles. The last data and measures article, by Daniel Stockemer and Aksel Sundström, is just as unique and innovative with a comparative take on the age of cabinet members in France, Germany and the UK, and the paltry presence of young adults in cabinet positions. This piece also brings the point home that we welcome submissions that include France as a case among others in comparative analyses.

The review article by France Nicolas Nué and Rafael Cos fits into the theme of the innovative empirical mapping of the three data articles, also in a comparative perspective, with a fascinating assessment of how party manifestos are used in French politics through a masterful discussion of the rich comparative work on political party manifestos. Taken together, these four articles provide a rich and exciting set of data and descriptive analyses that not only give us new insights into French Politics but also stand to help researchers advance their own work through the potential inclusion of new variables from these articles. Many thanks to Michael Lewis-Beck for his tireless editorial leadership on these articles.

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Our two stand-alone research articles, with the systematic empirical theory-building approach required of all of our accepted articles, add to the innovative and useful nature of this issue. Pascale Dufour, Alexie Labelle and Marion Leboucher bring together the issue of state restructuring and social protest in the arena of higher education in France; all hot topics for students of politics inside and outside of France. Samuel Defacqz and Claire Dupuy's article furnishes priceless understanding and analysis of a new phenomenon in politics; e-platforms for legislators and their implications for democracy, not just in France but for the practice of democracy in more theoretical terms.

As always, I am very impressed by and thankful for the hard work and dedication of our authors, reviewers and associate editors. The high-quality articles of this issue offer readers new and innovative insights, data and empirically tested propositions on core political questions that come out of France and hence make important contributions to understanding and theory-building efforts about the state of politics and democracy in our complex and challenging world today.

As always, I welcome your feedback on the journal (mazur@wsu.edu). For more information on the journal and articles for free download, including a collection on gender and politics, I invite you to go to our website at <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/journal/41253>.

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