

THE VIEW FROM SOUTH LAWN

The conclusion of our twenty-fifth year of publication invites reflection on the past and future of the *Journal of Politics & Society*. As I am confident you will agree, this edition demonstrates that we have not yet lost our youthful vigor.

The Fall 2013 journal is among the most interdisciplinary in our long history. Evoking the early days of *Helvidius*, the guest essay is a piece of legal scholarship coauthored by Roberta Kaplan, counsel to the plaintiff in *United States v. Windsor*. In among the most important Supreme Court decisions in recent memory, the Court found unconstitutional provisions in the Defense of Marriage Act that prevented married same-sex couples from enjoying some of the benefits of marriage guaranteed by federal law. The essay analyzes some of the central points of Ms. Kaplan's argument and contends that proof must outweigh prejudice in the court of law.

Yet diverging from our traditional focus on law, political science, history, and economics, the student articles in this edition exemplify the impressive and important undergraduate research taking place in a wide variety of social science disciplines.

We begin, as always, with this semester's recipient of the Peter and Katherine Tomassi Prize for outstanding undergraduate research: *To Construct a Riot*, written by Simone Zhang. Rather than seeking to understand the causes of the 2011 London Riots, as in most prior scholarship on the topic, Ms. Zhang analyzes the discourse surrounding them and the political and social consequences of this framing. Her essay exemplifies the innovative and timely undergraduate research that the *Journal* prides itself in publishing.

The next paper takes us to the other side of the globe. In *Design Politics*, Ryan Lee investigates the strengthening relationship between South Korean politics and design. Though often considered inherently disparate, Mr. Lee builds an insightful bridge between the two fields, reinforcing the value of interdisciplinary scholarship.

Shiva Kooragayala furthers the discussion of physical environment and urbanity by investigating suburban poverty in the context of a housing voucher program in Atlanta. In doing so, Mr. Kooragayala reaffirms the value of theory-based empirical evaluation of public programs. Sweta Maturu enriches this affirmation in her quantitative investigation of the influence of UN peacekeeping troops on rule of law. While Ms. Maturu is unable to offer conclusive statistical results, her article is representative of the unflinching dedication to methodological rigor and scientific investigation that serves as the foundation of our work at the *Journal of Politics & Society*.

Continuing in the global context, Emily Arsen presents her research on the so-called 'immigrant paradox.' Previous public health scholarship reveals the curious phenomenon that immigrant families in the United States tend to have better health than native families, despite unequal access to resources associated with physical wellbeing. Ms. Arsen finds evidence that this paradox is also present in France, extending the boundaries of our understanding and opening new territories for empirical research. And finally, Marita Wright shares the results of her ethnographic investigation of an environmental organization's anti-fracking campaign. In doing so, Ms. Wright invites us to reflect on how messages are crafted and disseminated to the public.

Marking the end of our first twenty-five years, this edition also introduces a new cover design. With this refresh, we sought to highlight the content of the *Journal* in a creative and dynamic way. The graphic depicts the relative frequency of words that appear in the articles through color, size, and centrality. At a glance, the viewer is instantly immersed in the substance of the *Journal*, removing abstraction and offering a direct window into its content. The words in the cloud, of course, will change with each edition.

And finally, this journal is the first in our new size format. It is tremendously important to us to accommodate the scholarly vision of our authors. Doubling the page size allows us to include important tables and figures and to publish longer works without compromising the complexities and subtleties of the discussion. This transformation provides a platform to continue extending the scope of our mission long into the future.

None of these changes would have been possible without the tremendous enthusiasm of the Executive and Editorial Boards. As my time as Editor in Chief draws to a close, words cannot express my gratitude towards those who have given their time and energy to the *Journal of Politics & Society*. Over the past twenty-five years, we have established a well-deserved reputation as one of the premier journals of undergraduate social science research. Although we have changed in many ways since the first editions of *Helvidius*, we remain—and always will remain—motivated by a genuine, passionate curiosity and excitement towards understanding the social world.

And I, for one, cannot wait to see what is to come in the next twenty-five years.

Jonah Smith
Editor in Chief

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