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## Editorial Note

<https://doi.org/10.22151/politikon.48.0>

Volume 48 presents four articles and a book review and includes works both from senior and junior scholars. Three of the four articles belong to a special section titled 'Populisms, Hybrid Regimes, and Political Change: Memoirs of the First Edition of the Leonardo Morlino Lecture Series'. This special section has been initiated by Dr. Rafael Plancarte Escobar, whose coordination has been indispensable to the improvement of the manuscripts developing ideas from the Lecture Series. Professor Morlino kindly agreed to provide an introductory overview of the three articles.

The Leonardo Morlino Lecture Series took place in late November 2019 at the Autonomous University of Querétaro (Mexico) with a dual purpose: 1) to establish a space for scientific reflection around conceptual and empirical discussions associated with democracy and democratisation; and 2) to recognise my contributions to these fields of study. This venture was initiated by a group of scholars from the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, and brought together pundits from a number of Mexican and foreign universities, who exchanged perspectives on different dimensions of the study of democracy. The lecturers agreed that democracy and democratisation are phenomena subject to political change, which is why reflection on these issues must be constantly renewed. The Lecture Series was launched a few months before the COVID-19 crisis. The impact this crisis has and will have on democracy intensifies interest in phenomena such as the resurgence of nationalism, the proliferation of populism, the radicalisation of ideologies as well as the worsening of the crisis of representation and of political parties.

The memoirs of the Leonardo Morlino Lecture Series address some of these issues and consist of three pieces. In the first, Juan Russo sets out to clarify the similarities and differences among three phenomena: polarisation, radicalisation and populism. Russo also discusses the difference between populisms in Europe and Latin America as well as the distinction between the populisms of the 1950s and contemporary populisms. Subsequently, Jaime Preciado describes the main aspects of the debate between two antagonistic conceptions of populism: the liberal democracy's perspective and the critical theory's tradition. For Preciado, the concept of the hybrid regime is complementary to an in-depth discussion on the nature of populisms. Finally, Rafael Plancarte explores some of the causes of the consolidation of the Mexican hybrid regime through an analysis of two dimensions of the quality of democracy: political participation and the rule of law. Plancarte constructs an

analytical narrative of three cases through the use of static game theory to carry out this assessment.

Professor Leonardo Morlino (LUISS University)

The special section is followed by Marcel Nagar's article examining the phenomenon of 'developmental states', characterised by rapid central planning and regulation, in selected African countries. It identifies the reasons behind the growth of developmental states in four of these countries (Botswana, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Rwanda) and then focuses on the prospects for the rise of such a state in South Africa. Although, as the article shows, neither global nor South African domestic policy has been conducive for a developmental state, COVID-19 is altering the status quo and offers a chance for South African political leaders to embrace the developmental paradigm.

The book review of this issue is written by Nkosingiphile Mkhize on Robin Renwick's non-fiction book addressed for a wider audience that discusses the perils of corruption and state capture in South Africa. The reviewer is generally appreciative of the book's capacity to identify the key political actors in South Africa engaged in these practices since the country's democratic transition, as well as those challenging them in the effort to strengthen South Africa's democracy. The connection of corruption to a range of broader threats to democracy, among them being 'denialism, arrogance [and] abuse of power', is another advantage of the analysis. Yet, the review notes that the web of relationship between the actors could at times have benefitted from more nuance, for which the readers need to engage with other, related titles.

In this Note, we are furthermore pleased to include a brief report of the latest event in the *LAPSS Politikon* webinar series, coordinated by Senior Editor Dana Rice and Editorial Assistant Andressa Costa.<sup>1</sup>

In November 2020, Mark Beeson, founding editor of 'Critical Studies of the Asia-Pacific' presented in the publication workshop: [How to Transform a Thesis into a Journal Article](#), co-hosted by *LAPSS Politikon* and IAPSS Oceania. He was also joined by *LAPSS Politikon* editorial assistant, Spyridon Parthenis. Together, Mark and Spyridon discussed the barriers to entry of writing and publishing, and the rewarding nature of journal publications. Firstly, there is significant competition upon entering the field. Overcoming this is a matter of networking with individuals and/or journals, perhaps in a voluntary or part-time context. Secondly, demonstrating your consistency is pivotal for a pathway into continual journal

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<sup>1</sup> Due to technical complications, the recording of the event unfortunately could not be made available.

writing. One must write and contribute regularly to establish a positive reputation and contribution to the academic discourse. Further, it is important to stand out with your own unique creative flavour of writing. Persistence requires enjoying the process. From there, career prospects lay ahead.

Aiden Mocicka (Project Coordinator, IAPSS Oceania)

Last but not least, we report key changes in the editorial team: The editorial team remains the driving engine behind *IAPSS Politikon*, alongside the authors and reviewers. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the journal continues to operate as usual, with slight delays in selected review processes. After a period of fruitful collaboration, Senior Editors Cláudia Araújo and Emmanuelle Rousseau concluded their terms in the Editorial Board. Both had started their involvement in the editorial team as Editorial Assistants and so we are particularly grateful for their commitment to take up more responsibilities as the time passed. Along these lines, the Editorial Board has been enhanced by Andrea Bregoli and Andrew Devine, both former Editorial Assistants. In this composition, we continue to aim at providing meaningful feedback to all the manuscripts submitted to the journal, the flow of which has not decreased since the outbreak of the pandemic at all. The journal continues to evaluate submissions and is also open to applications for reviewer candidates of all levels of academic seniority.

The Editorial Board