

Editorial Note

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In July 2021, some members of the *Politikon* Editorial Team participated in the panel 'The Role of Students and Junior Scholars in Academic Publishing: of Students, by Students, for Students (or Beyond)?', which took place during the 2021 IPSA World Congress of Political Science. This panel reflected on the involvement of junior scholars in academic publishing – in Political Science and related disciplines – with an emphasis on how taking on editorial roles contributes to their academic career trajectories and professional development. One of the conclusions of this panel is that there is a wide range of junior journal models and, relatedly, of intended objectives and editorial practices. Thus, while some junior journals prioritize the training and development of editors in terms of the acquisition of skills such as editing and supervision of manuscript revisions, others emphasize the quality of the outcome of the editorial process. One of *Politikon*'s main goals has been to articulate these two – sometimes conflicting – purposes coherently: while this journal seeks to professionalize emerging or young scholars by supporting their acquisition and/or strengthening of editorial skills through their editorial duties, it also seeks to maintain high standards of publication by adhering to rigorous editorial practices. Additionally, one of the distinguishing features of this journal has been its commitment to supporting authors who submit manuscripts to the journal by providing them with thorough and substantive feedback, regardless of whether the manuscript is published. Maintaining a journal model that ensures not only a high quality of publication, but also the empowerment of authors and editors, is a challenge. The work of *Politikon* can only be sustained and achieved with the contribution and commitment of all who constitute the editorial structure of *Politikon*: editors, editorial assistants, and reviewers.

Reviewers play an essential role in the editorial process of this journal. To recognize and celebrate the work of our reviewers, the IAPSS *Politikon* Best Reviewer Award was inaugurated this year. This award recognizes the reviewer who has submitted a set of reviews that excel in their quality. These reviews offer insights in theoretical and/or methodological terms. This award is also intended to encourage the reviewers in *Politikon*'s portfolio to continue sharing their expertise through the peer review process. In this first iteration, the Award Committee consisting of Professor Asimina Michailidou (University of Oslo, ARENA Centre for European Studies), Professor Philipp Köker (Leibniz University Hannover) and Rafael Plancarte (Co-Editor-in-Chief of IAPSS *Politikon*) have selected Mirko Reul as the recipient of the Best Reviewer Award for his outstanding work as reviewer for *Politikon* over the past three years. The Award Committee also awards Larissa Peixoto and Tamta Gelashvili with Honorable Mentions.

In this volume, Luca Doll explores the reasons for the absence of cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean. Doll utilizes Securitization Theory and Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) to analyze reciprocal securitization of Turkey and Greece in 2020. The article introduces a new concept: the buffer subcomplex. Marco Improta examines the Italian southernist parties' identity and electoral performance between 1945 and 2020. Improta analyzes southernist parties in terms of ideology, autonomist or separatist aspirations and geographical roots. This is followed by an evaluation of the parties' degree of success in national, European, and regional elections. Improta finds that that, since the end of World War II, Italian southernist parties have been characterized by an autonomist nature, have followed the typical patterns of the catch-all party, and have been more successful in regional elections. Camila Saute Torresini discusses how arrangements among middle powers can be effective in fostering sustainable development. The author compares the effectiveness of two arrangements: the IBSA Trilateral Forum and the MIKTA New Innovative Partnership. The author shows that the former has been more effective than the latter.

The Editorial Board

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