

Questions in Politics

The Journal of the Georgia Political Science Association
Volume V

Preface

Questions in Politics (QiP), the scholarly journal of the Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA), welcomes our readers to Volume V. The articles published here began as papers presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the GPSA. The authors then submitted the manuscripts to the journal, where they were anonymously and thoroughly reviewed by peers. After further review and editing, out of nine manuscripts submitted, three are published here.

We are pleased to announce that the first article in Volume V, “The Pathologies of Democracy: Mill and Winnicott on the Secret Ballot” by Dr. John LeJeune, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgia Southwestern State University, is the McBrayer Award winner for 2017. The McBrayer is given annually to the best paper presented at the Annual Meeting. The winning author or authors have traditionally received a certificate and a cash award. To further recognize this achievement, the McBrayer winner is the first article in this volume.

Our articles for this volume range from political theory to public policy to the politics of higher education. The lead article explores the differing arguments for the prized institution of the secret ballot. Northam’s article examines the politics and policymaking surrounding pollinators, which are “bees, butterflies, moths, bats, and various birds.” Finally, Starling and LaPlant analyze the contributions of international students to higher education, a cluster of programs and policies that are somewhat at odds with the current presidential administration.

Following the 2016 presidential election, political science, as a discipline, was criticized for failing to predict correctly the winner. This indicates that a paradigm shift may be taking place within political science. Nearly 50 years ago, Thomas Kuhn (1970) argued that social sciences, including political science, were in a “pre-paradigm” period (160–61), moving toward clear paradigms with “universally recognized scientific achievements that, for a time, provide model problems and solutions for a community of researchers” (viii). The paradigms of political science used to both predict and explain American politics have become less accurate and relevant in recent years. The emergence of Donald Trump as a politician and his rise to the presidency have many observers of American politics doubting the relevance of these paradigms and, consequently, of political science.

This year's volume presents an approach to the study of politics and government that demonstrates the eclecticism, complexity, and diversity of analytical styles. It is not wedded to a theme linked to a paradigm or paradigms. Only time will tell whether a shift in paradigms is taking place in political science.

The home for *QiP* remains the web. Go to <http://gpsa-online.org> and click on "Questions in Politics." As of this year, paper copies may be purchased through print-on-demand. Copies of Volumes I through IV remain available. Contact either of us to purchase a copy or to arrange for print-on-demand.

Finally, we continue to thank our anonymous reviewers, as well as the Editor, James "Larry" Taulbee, and the Managing Editor, Matthew E. Van Atta, for their efforts to continuously improve this journal.

Thomas E. Rotnem and Adam P. Stone

Reference

Kuhn, Thomas S. (1962) 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 2nd ed., enlarged. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.