

Proposing a Special Issue for *POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY*

The editors of *Political Geography* welcome proposals for special issues on topics that fall within the scope of the journal (www.elsevier.com/locate/polgeog).

Those wishing to guest edit a special issue should prepare a proposal as outlined below, and then send this to polgeog@colorado.edu

As *Political Geography* is only able to publish one to two special issues per year, the editors will seek to identify the proposals of the highest quality for publication by the following competitive process. Proposals for special issues on topics that have been the subject of other special issues in recent years will receive less priority.

There are two deadlines each year for submission of special issue proposals: April 30th and October 31st. As soon as possible after each of these dates, the editors of *Political Geography* will consider all special issue proposals that conform to the journal's guidelines and which have been received in the previous six-month period. All potential Guest Editors who have submitted proposals will be informed by e-mail of the judgment regarding their proposal.

The following notes set out:

- what the editors of *Political Geography* are looking for in special issues
- guidelines for the development of special issue proposals
- the process by which special issues will be developed once the editors in principle accept a proposal.

Objectives of Special Issues

Special issues of *Political Geography* should offer an authoritative review of current thinking and debates in a particular area of political geography. These debates should be taken forward; the special issues should advance understanding of political geography (research priorities, impact) in the area concerned and provide pointers to future trends and challenges.

Preparing a Proposal for a Special Issue

Those wishing to propose a special issue of *Political Geography* should prepare a proposal that:

- Sets out the importance of the area of political geography that the special issue will focus on;
- Explains the anticipated contribution of the special issue in advancing understanding in this area;
- Identifies papers and authors for possible inclusion in the special issue, with a brief description of each paper. (These papers do not need to have been written at this time, although our assumption is that most will be based on work already in progress). Where a given author(s) has published extensively on a subject already, it is necessary to indicate the new contribution to be made by the proposed paper;

- Indicates the schedule in which the special issue could be produced (paper writing, reviewing, submission of final copy to *Political Geography*) assuming the proposal is accepted.

A special issue of *Political Geography* should be 50,000-55,000 words long, meaning a maximum of 5-6 papers if these are on average 8,000-10,000 words long (including abstract, appendices, tables etc). Proposals for special issues should include more possible papers than can be included in the eventual issue. This is so that the refereeing process can select the best 4-6 papers for final inclusion in the issue. If more papers are accepted through the review process than can be accommodated in a special issue, they will be published in later regular issues of the journal.

Special issues include some form of short overview introduction that sets out the key research issues in the area concerned (with appropriate reference to existing literature) and summarises the contribution of the special issue to furthering understanding of them.

Organizing a “Successful” Special Issue

Once the editors of *Political Geography* have in principle accepted a proposal, it is the responsibility of the Guest Editors to deliver the submissions to the journal within the agreed schedule. The journal Editors will organize a double-blind reviewing process for all papers submitted for inclusion in the special issue, so as to:

- Identify those papers to be finally included in the special issue
- Strengthen these papers, so as to ensure the highest possible standards for the issue.

All papers for special issues must meet the normal refereeing standards of the journal. The Guest editors will be requested to provide two names for qualified referees for each paper and the journal editors will select additional reviewers. The suggested reviewers may or may not be used in the evaluation process.

The journal Editors should keep the Guest Editors informed by e-mail of progress in preparing the special issue and, in particular, alert them in advance if agreed deadlines are likely to slip.

All submission and review procedures are completed through the EES electronic submission tool at ees.elsevier.com/jpgg and all papers must conform to the style requirements of *Political Geography* before submission.