Guest Editorials

A guest editorial provides an opportunity for an author to reflect on the state of the discipline, the journal, and/or the academy; to explore a gap in scholarship on a concept or theme of interest to political geographers; and/or to push forward a particular theoretical, methodological, or ethical agenda in the journal and sub-discipline. To further clarify what a guest editorial is, it may be useful to consider what a guest editorial is not:

- A journalistic account of a recent political event: Guest editorials may refer to current events, but this medium is not intended specifically to discuss such events; scholars wishing to explore current events may be invited by the editors to contribute a Commentary.
- A literature review: Identifying gaps in, or shortcomings of, current scholarly approaches necessarily requires an overview of the relevant literature. But a guest editorial, at 1500-2000 words, cannot possibly summarize an entire body of scholarship on a major topic. At the same time, a guest editorial should focus on explaining why gaps might exist, articulating the implications of these gaps, and offering a way forward.
- A miniature research paper: It is fine to refer to one’s research (or other people’s research), but a guest editorial is not intended to be a research summary.
- A political rant: Editorialists are expected to have opinions, but they are also expected to address competing interpretations and, if appropriate, to reject such interpretations respectfully using evidence and support.

Guest editorials are 1500-2000 words in length, including references (endnotes are discouraged). While not peer reviewed, guest editorials are reviewed by the Setting the Agenda editor and possibly other members of the editorial team. Proposals for guest editorials should be submitted directly to the Setting the Agenda editor, Mia Bennett: miabenn@uw.edu