The *Journal/Revue* at 50

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For institutions as well as for people, turning 50 invites reflection on what's gone before and what's to come. This special 50th anniversary issue looks at Canadian political science and the profession—past and present—from a number of perspectives and explores ways in which they might or should change.

In planning this special issue we decided that we did not want a series of articles assessing the state of the literature in various subfields of the discipline (parties, federalism, political economy, and the like) though that would certainly be useful. Instead we opted to focus on analytic pieces exploring the Canadian discipline of political science: the people who comprise it, the work they do—teaching as well as research—and the publications they produce. We did commission a series of review articles surveying influential books published over the past five decades in various broad fields of Canadian political science.

Our understanding of who to include in "Canadian political science" (CPS) was straightforward: every political scientist in Canada, mostly but not necessarily at academic institutions, as well as any academics outside Canada working on Canadian government and politics. Yet if the "who" was easy, the "what" and the "why" were far from self-evident. One contributor asked whether an overview introduction to the special issue would lay out the nature and characteristics of CPS that authors might reflect on and respond to. In our view, no one person or even group could put together an account of CPS that wouldn't generate at least disappointment and disagreement if not outright condemnation. In any event, we wanted authors to develop their own perspectives on what CPS is and ought to be about. It is fair to say that nothing like a coherent picture of CPS emerges from the articles that follow, but we hope that the Rashomonesque accounts of its various elements will advance our understanding of CPS.

We further hope to go beyond understanding and bring about concrete change. Shopworn as the cliché may be, it is nonetheless true that you can't know where you are going without knowing where you've been. Thus, a number of the articles that follow are primarily retrospective, including

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several on the *Journal/Revue*. Most articles, however, are forward-looking, with calls for reflection on the nature of CPS leading in turn to advocacy for new approaches and ways of "doing" political science in Canada and indeed for fundamentally revamping the purpose of CPS.

Several prominent senior members of the profession have contributed articles to this special issue, but it also includes many beyond the "usual suspects" —graduate students and junior faculty. And—a first for the *Journal/Revue*—as many authors in this issue are women as men.

Many people are owed thanks for their efforts in putting together this special issue. First and foremost, the authors, who responded to the call for proposals with a wonderfully diverse and thoughtful range of article ideas and then brought them to fruition. They bore up cheerfully under repeated email reminders of the short deadlines for submitting both their original papers and the revised versions and, more notably, delivered on time … or almost on time. So too, reviewers did their part and more in moving the special issue along. Very few of those approached to referee papers declined, even when asked to commit to a very quick turnaround; only a literal handful of reviewers failed to meet their deadlines and even they were only a few days late. Our partners at Cambridge University Press were both understanding and helpful in making the special issue a reality. Finally, special thanks to John Meisel for sharing his recollections of being "present at the creation."

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