Call for Special Issues
British Journal of Politics and International Relations

Submission deadlines
For Special Issues in 2018 (Vol. 20)
1 March 2017
For Special Issues in 2019 (Vol. 21)
1 March 2018

Submission guidelines
The BJPIR is the leading international UK-based journal in its subject areas.¹ The BJPIR’s editorial home is the University of Edinburgh, rated 19th amongst universities globally according to QS World University Rankings for 2016/17.

The BJPIR receives a large number of Special Issue proposals each year. However, we have decided to consider submissions in a ‘gathered field’ for each available special issue slot, according to a set deadline (of 1st March). After that date (normally within a few weeks), we will convene a meeting of our Board of Consultant Editors to choose a proposal for publication.

We welcome proposals in all areas covered by the BJPIR.² However, the dearth of open calls by leading IR journals for special issues on international relations – and the BJPIR’s high IR ranking – lead us especially to welcome proposals that gather together innovative, cutting edge research on IR.

Any proposal should designate one or more guest editors, who will take responsibility (in all ways) for the timely delivery of a full range of articles on a designated theme (each formatted according to BJPIR specifications³). A proposal may contain as many as 13/14 individual articles at maximum; but we also welcome proposals containing fewer articles for ‘Special Sections’.

¹ According to multiple metrics. The BJPIR’s most recent impact factor (1.423) ranks it 21st of 86 IR journals and 41st of 163 on Politics.
Experience suggests that **12-18 months** may be required between acceptance of a proposal and the planned publication of a Special Issue/Section. The editorial team are happy to give informal advice in advance of a formal submission. If a proposal is deemed by the Editors to stand little chance of acceptance, the proposers will be advised immediately in order to enable them to approach other journals (or book publishers) without delay. At the discretion of our Board of Consultant Editors, one or more proposals that are not selected after the submission deadline may be considered along with other proposals for the next vacant slot.

The *BJPIR* has an editorial budget that may help **fund a workshop** that brings together contributors to a Special Issue/Section. However, we would normally expect that guest editors and contributors to a Special Issue/Section proposal would already have developed plans and their own funding to facilitate exchange and comments on drafts, such as via a conference panel. In any case, the *BJPIR* is restricted to providing matching funds to support workshops that have secured funding from other sources.

**A formal proposal should contain the following:**

- **Title** of the proposed Special Issue/Section.
- Names, contact details, and positions of the proposed Guest Editor(s) together with brief biographical details.
- A brief description (500 words) of the rationale behind the proposal, its planned scope, its innovative nature in the context of existing work, and its likely appeal to readers not specializing in the particular field (for example the Special Issue/Section’s broader theoretical or methodological focus).
- Names and position of each proposed contributor and a 150-word abstract of their paper. (It is appreciated that draft abstracts are often indicative, but it is important that contributors are ‘signed up’ and not simply on a wish list!). Since all of the papers for the Special Issue will be subject to standard peer review, aspiring guest editors may want to factor in – and make contributors aware - that all papers may not make it through that process. We thus encourage submissions containing more than 8 paper proposals.
- Details of project management ‘milestones’ such as any workshops that are planned, date by which first and subsequent drafts are to be submitted, time allowed for the refereeing process, and so on (the Editors are happy to advise on these matters, but it is best to assume that some authors and referees may not adhere to your timetable!).
- The planned **word count** of each paper (8000 words is an absolute maximum for all articles in the *BJPIR*) and confirmation that the total word count for a proposed Special Issue will not exceed a maximum of approximately 100,000 words including refs, notes, diagrams and tables.

Special issues are managed, on a day to day basis, by the Guest Editor(s), via the ScholarOne online submission and review system used by *BJPIR*, with the full support of the *BJPIR* editorial office. Normal *BJPIR* refereeing procedures (at least two referees per paper) apply. Guest Editor(s) will be required to sign a (standard) formal publishing agreement with our publisher (SAGE) once a proposal has been accepted by the Editors.

In case of further questions, please feel free to get in touch: [bjpir@ed.ac.uk](mailto:bjpir@ed.ac.uk).