Executive Summary

This report covers the 2017 calendar year, which is the second full year of our management of the journal. Our main area of concern this year continued to focus on resolving the backlog of accepted manuscripts from the previous editorial team. We have made good progress on this front even as our number of submissions have continued to increase. Looking forward, FPA’s next challenge will be when Cameron Thies transitions out of the EIC role upon becoming President-Elect of ISA in 2018.

Backlog

The last two issues of Volume 12 in 2016 were double issues that began the process of clearing a majority of the backlog inherited from the previous editorial team. We continued with four double issues of Volume 13 in 2017. As with the initial two double issues, we grouped papers in themes for most of Volume 13. For example, 13(1) was on “Foreign Policy and Economic Statecraft,” 13(2) was entitled “Rising Regional Powers and Foreign Policy Analysis,” and 13(3) focused on “Theoretical Innovations in Foreign Policy Analysis.” 13(4) was devoted to publishing in print all of the remaining articles accepted in 2013. The first issue of 2018 will clear out all of the remaining papers accepted in 2014. We now no longer have any remaining papers from the Wiley backlog, and have approximately a year backlog accumulated after the transition to Oxford.
Impact Factor

The 2016 impact factor increased to .841 compared to .477 in the previous year. OUP also provides information on altmetrics for each article on the website, which includes shares on social media, downloads and views. The editorial team is obviously happy that the impact factor went up. We have been trying to direct attention to articles that would figure in the impact factor through a virtual issue, blogs, and curated collections connected to various global ISA conferences.

Manuscript Flow

As of December 31, 2017, we have received 188 original submissions. These included 173 original articles and 15 research notes. In addition to this, we received five proposals for special issues. This represents a steady increase from the 181 original submissions and two special issue proposals received in calendar year 2016.

Our acceptance rate for revised and original submissions in 2017 was 8.3% (17 manuscripts), which is a reduction from the previous calendar year (9.8% or 18 manuscripts). It is a lower than would be needed to fill four normal issues, but we must keep in mind that we are still adding to the backlog with these acceptances. The desk rejection rate was 28.8% (59 manuscripts), which is higher than the previous year (21.5%). Most manuscripts receiving desk rejects are for fit with the journal, exceptional sloppiness in presentation/style/formatting, or originality problems that are not readily resolvable.

Turn Around Time

Our turn-around time for original submissions to first decision is 58 days, excluding desk rejects. This is exactly the same as 2016, but much lower than 2015’s average of 69 days. We aim to bring this down a bit in the coming year.

Author Participation, Sex and Geography

Solo-authorship again predominates in our original submissions this year with a total of 115 solo-authored papers (61%).

In terms of the sex breakdown of original submissions, 66 submissions included at least one woman (35%). This is up over last year’s 55 submissions (30%).

We had original submissions from 39 countries, including Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States. The largest proportions were
from the United States (33%), United Kingdom (15%), Turkey (7%), China (4%), Singapore (4%), Iran (3%), Brazil (3%), and Israel (3%).

Replication

We are on the second year of our replication policy, which was new to FPA with our editorial team. The policy is described here: FPA Replication Policy. Babak RezaeeDaryakenari continues to serve as the Replication Analyst for FPA. We created the workflow process for replication and worked with the ScholarOne to implement it in the software submission system in 2016.

Babak created our Harvard Dataverse site at https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/FPA. He initially uploaded any data collected by the previous editorial team and makes sure that all of the quantitative papers we are accepting have their data properly uploaded as well. There are currently 78 datasets archived on this site.

Since our replication policy went into effect, we have had 10 articles undergo replication in 2016 and 10 in 2017. Babak has created an ACCESS database to manage and document the replication process and generate reports for authors, the replication analyst, and editor-in-chief.

Marketing and Social Media

The Editor-in-Chief was videotaped talking about the journal and the kind of work FPA publishes: https://youtu.be/8YJ8F2rfKEs.

We participated in several curated collections this year related to some of ISA’s global conferences in Cuba and Hong Kong. The Cuba collection is here: https://academic.oup.com/isr/pages/isa_havana_vi. The Hong Kong collection is here: https://academic.oup.com/isq/pages/isa_hong_kong.

OUP’s Women in International Relations collection included six papers from FPA by women: https://academic.oup.com/isq/pages/women_in_ir. OUP also put together a highly cited group of ungated papers to celebrate our impact factor: https://academic.oup.com/fpa/pages/highly_cited.

Associate Editor Brian Lai continued to lead our social media activities. We have been participating in OUP’s blog: https://blog.oup.com/, though we have not been as active this year. We only had 1 blog post, which was Susan Allen’s post for the “Foreign Policy and Economic Statecraft” issue. We had 2 other potential blog posts scuttled by minor disagreements between author and OUP blog editor over length.
As for Twitter, we have 965 followers. We average 227 impressions (or reach) per day. We average about a 1.8% engagement rate (or % of our followers who engage a tweet). Follow us @FPA_Jrnl.

**EIC Transition**

The current EIC, Cameron G. Thies, was elected President of ISA in December of 2017. This three-year commitment begins when he becomes President-Elect at the annual meeting in San Francisco in 2018. After discussions with the Executive Director and the current President, it was decided that occupying both roles presented a conflict of interest. The preferred solution was that Thies would step down as EIC. The plan is to transition the EIC role to Brian Lai and Klaus Brummer and have the journal based at the University of Iowa. The journal will transition between ASU and Iowa with a complete handover by June 1, 2018. Given the new editors are part of the current editorial team, we envision a smooth transition that will continue to operate FPA with the same vision and process that we began with in 2016.