

PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS

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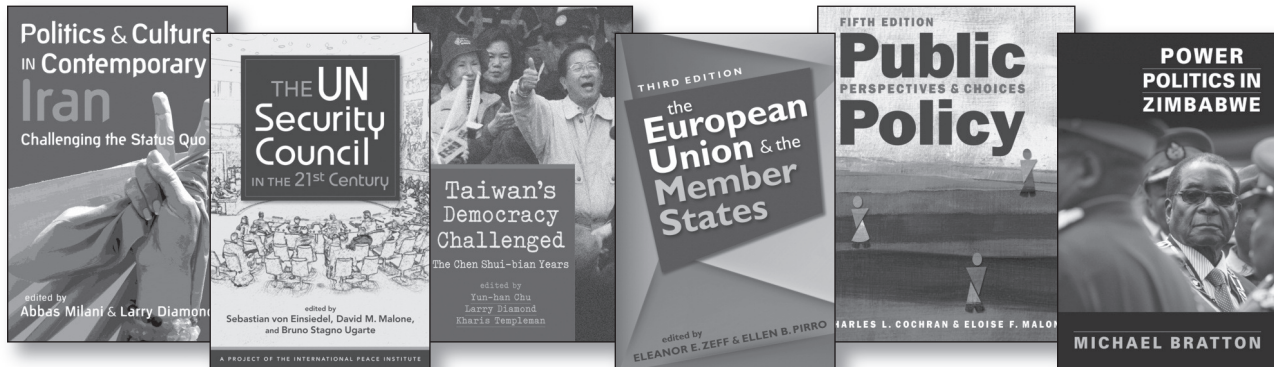


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Cover art: Ferguson, MO. Aug. 11, 2014. Police wearing riot gear walk toward a man with his hands raised. The response to Brown’s death turned violent because of a convergence of factors, observers said. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

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The direct advancement of knowledge is at the core of APSA activities. We promote scholarly communication in political science through a variety of initiatives including publishing three distinguished journals: *American Political Science Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

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SPECIAL ISSUE!

Let's Be Heard!

How to Better Communicate Political Science's Public Value



Political science is at a crossroads. The knowledge that it produces is more diverse and valuable than ever before — yet many audiences do not understand why or how political science is beneficial. Moreover, the rise of the Internet has changed the kinds of information that people seek. For many scholars, the question has become:

"How do we make our knowledge accessible and relevant to others while still retaining our high standards of scholarship and teaching?"

With this question in mind, APSA commissioned a Task Force on Public Engagement. Its leaders John H. Aldrich and Arthur Lupia solicited constructive ideas from a diverse group of 21 experienced and knowledgeable academics and public figures. *Let's Be Heard!* makes these ideas available to everyone. Because of the topic's timeliness, the APSA and Cambridge University Press have agreed to make the special issue available for free at Cambridge Journals Online or visit www.apsanet.org/letsbeheard.

Let's Be Heard! is organized into three sections: Section I includes in-depth interviews with publicly engaged political scientists and practitioners; Section II examines how to change the profession's incentives for serving others; and Section III considers new ideas, approaches, and avenues toward broadcasting the value of political science. The contributors contend that political science can offer immense, life changing value to society, but its ability to have this impact depends on its ability to communicate its knowledge effectively. Let's be heard!

