Editor's Foreword

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The first volume of the quarterly Political Analysis will mark the 25th anniversary of *Political Analysis* and its predecessor, *Political Methodology*. From the beginning of the discipline, methodology has been an important part of political science; however, the relationship between methodology and political science has never been an easy one.

As David Gow ("Quantification and Statistics in the Early Years of American Political Science, 1880–1922." *Political Methodology* 11:12, 1985) noted, "The relationship between statistics and political science commenced as a close one, in which statistics contributed to political science by providing economy of description, and statisticians contributed to government by providing the data for policy-making and administration. It was in this role that statistics was incorporated in the design that John Burgess laid down at Columbia College [in 1880]."

But over the next century the relationship between political science and statistics did not live up to this initial vision. The founding of the journal *Political Methodology*, the forerunner of *Political Analysis*, was an important step in allowing political science to meet Burgess' vision, albeit a century later. As Chris Achen noted in his editorial statement for the final issue of *Political Methodology* (Vol. 11, 1985), "When [*Political Methodology*] began in the mid-1970s, methodology was more often an avocation than a vocation. No political science journal welcomed methodological articles, and many journals rejected them out of hand. Certainly no Political Methodology Society existed to give shape and organization to the needs of political methodologists. In the face of these difficulties, John Sullivan and George Marcus created Political Methodology. . . . By the end of their tenure as editors, the field had come of age, and the rapid developments of the last few years were possible."

When Achen wrote his editorial, the first Summer Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, at the University of Michigan, had already occurred, and the second, at Berkeley, was about to occur. At those meetings, 12 methodologists sat around a seminar table. Over 100 methodologists attended the 1998 meeting. When *Political Methodology* began, most departments had one "service" course, usually taught by the most technically trained Americanist; major departments now employ at least one person trained as a methodologist, offering a variety of advanced courses. A generation ago, an advanced course at the ICPSR Summer Program taught multiple regression. In 1998 there were 40 students in a political science course on maximum likelihood, and 20 in the advanced maximum-likelihood course. A decade ago young methodologists obtained tenure on the basis of their publications and contributions to fields other than political methodology; today young methodologists can make a career by contributing and publishing in their own field. A few years after the first summer meeting, political methodology was recognized by the

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American Political Science Association as an organized subfield. Today it is the fourth largest organized subfield in the Association, with over 600 dues-paying members.

Much of the recent success of methodology as a field is due to the journal *Political Analysis*, sponsored by the Society for Political Methodology and the Organized Subfield of the American Political Science Association. When *Political Analysis* was founded, the only journal publishing methodological articles was the *American Journal of Political Science*, in its Workshop series. Editors of other leading journals all too often rejected submissions because, while excellent, they were deemed "too specialized" or "too methodological." Only the Workshop allowed methodologists to escape this foolishness. And while that series was (and is) excellent, it could not provide a sufficient outlet for political methodologists to build careers as methodologists.

Political Analysis was founded to help rectify this problem. Its three editors, Jim Stimson, John Freeman, and Walter Mebane, carried on the task begun by John Sullivan and George Marcus. Each of these editors struggled with one major problem: *Political Analysis* was an annual volume. When the decision was made to restart *Political Methodology* as *Political Analysis*, it was felt that the field could only support an annual volume. That vision has been a victim of its success. An annual volume cannot compete for cutting- edge articles in a fast-changing field like methodology. And an annual does not allow nearly enough space to publish the best articles in all areas of methodology. Hence, starting with this Winter 2000 volume, *Political Analysis* becomes a quarterly publication.

The quarterly *Political Analysis* has the same goals as *Political Methodology* and the annual *Political Analysis*: to advance the field of political methodology, broadly defined. Like *Political Methodology*, *Political Analysis* is concerned with the entire range of interests and problems centering upon how political inquiry can be conducted. Any manuscript dealing with this broad set of interests is appropriate for submission to *Political Analysis*. The goal of the journal is to help make political science consistent with Burgess' design of a century ago. Science implies method, and we cannot have a science of politics without more attention to methodological issues.

The *Political Analysis* website (*http://polmeth.calpoly.edu/pa.html*) goes into more detail about the types of articles that PA especially encourages. But in the end, *Political Analysis* is the articles it publishes. Thus readers and contributors who want to know what *Political Analysis* is should consult the Table of Contents for this issue as well as the following forthcoming articles:

Alvarez, Michael, and Glasgow, Garrett "Two-State Estimation of Nonrecursive Choice Models"

Brehm, John, "Alternative Corrections for Sample Truncation"

Krause, George, "Testing for the Strong Form of Rational Expectations with Heterogeneously Informed Agents"

Miller, Warren, "The Other Dimension: Dynamic Constraint in American Political Opinion"

Poole, Keith, "Nonparametric Unfolding of Binary Choice Data"

Sigelman, Lee and Zeng, Langche, "Analyzing Censored and Sample-Selected Data with Tobit and Heckit Models"

Sigelman, Lee, "Publication Bias Reconsidered"

Steenbergen, Marco, "Item Similarity in Scale Analysis"

These articles show the diverse interests of the journal. These interests are also shown by the wide range of our distinguished editorial board (listed in the front matter). *Political*

Analysis aspires to publish any work which contributes to our understanding of any methodological issue.

I would like to thank the University of California, San Diego, and in particular, Richard Attiyeh, Dean of Graduate Studies, Paul Drake, Dean of the Division of Social Sciences and Harry Hirsch, Chair, Department of Political Science, for their generous financial support of the editorial office of *Political Analysis*.