Politics
and
Space

***EPC: Politics & Space* Theme Issue and Short Symposium Proposals**

Politics & Space publishes a limited number of innovative and distinctive theme issues and short symposia each year. Please send proposals to Katie Nudd (katie.nudd@fl.nudd.org.uk). Note that we do not consider proposals that are also being considered by other journals.

There are two proposal submission deadlines per year for theme issues: **June 1st** and **November 1st** (symposia proposals can be submitted any time). The editors will review the proposals and return a response in approximately two weeks. We receive many more proposals that we can publish, so we will normally accept one proposal in each review period.

Theme issues usually consist of 5-8 regular-sized papers and an introduction. We hope to publish high quality, coherent, and innovative theme issues that clearly fit the journal's aims and scope. Moreover, we are looking for theme issues where the collections amount to more than the sum of their parts. Ideally, we would like our theme issues to be future reference points in relevant debates. We hope they will make an impact and help people think differently.

For theme issues, we strongly encourage authors to submit manuscripts of 8,000 words, including references (slightly shorter than our typical manuscripts). (In the rare event that fewer than four papers are eventually accepted, they will be published as 'regular' papers.)

Short symposia usually consist of 3-5 short contributions and an introduction, with a total length being roughly 9,500 – 11,000 words. Symposia proposals can be submitted at any time.

Proposal Details: Proposals for both theme issues and symposia should be 2-3 pages in length and should include the following **in this order**:

- A title (including a clear indication of whether it is a theme issue or short symposium).
- The names and affiliations of the guest editors and the email address of the corresponding guest editor.
- A 150-200 word summary abstract describing the theme issue or short symposium as a whole. (This abstract will be sent to referees so they understand the 'big picture'.)
- A more detailed overview that explicitly discusses the proposal's distinctiveness, central contribution, and how the papers or short commentaries contribute to and engage with the chosen theme and with the remit of the journal, specifically its focus on the nexus of politics and the spatial (see our Aims and Scope and also our 2017 editorial for details).
- An indication of the expected word length.
- A note that the proposal is not being considered by another journal or book publisher.
- A list of each of the individual contributions, including:
  - A title
  - The name and brief affiliation (department and institution) of each author.
  - A 150-200 word abstract for each proposed contribution.
- A list of 10 key citations that sum up the theme issue or symposium as a whole.

Guest editors need not submit their introduction at the submission stage. This will be requested once the review process is complete and the final line-up of papers is known.

Important notes:

- We value diversity and will question proposals that lack diversity in terms of the gender composition of the authorship, the appropriate range of regional coverage, given the questions addressed by the theme issue or symposium, etc.
- The editors reserve the right to suggest changes to a proposed theme issue or symposium before making a final decision on its acceptance.
- We have a general guideline of one lead-authored contribution per contributor, which does not include the editorial introduction.

Upon acceptance

If proposals are accepted, one of the *Politics & Space* editors will be assigned to handle the theme issue or symposium. A deadline for submission will be agreed with the guest editors.

Theme issues: After a proposal for a theme issue is accepted, guest editors assemble contributions, and organize their timely submission. Guest editors are strongly encouraged to review drafts of the papers, prior to submission, and to give feedback to the authors, particularly with an eye to coherence among the contributions. Guest editors must provide the journal with at least 6 referee names per submission prior to the submission of individual papers (with the exception of submissions authored by the editors). These should not simply be names provided by the authors and they should not include names of referees with clear conflicts of interest or who are at the same institutions as the authors. Papers are reviewed individually according to our standard review procedures for original paper submissions. Those that are accepted are published online first, then eventually collected in a print issue of the journal. Given the individual evaluation of the papers, theme issues are sometimes smaller than originally proposed, when all papers do not make it through the process. Theme issues will be scheduled for print publication once the final paper in the collection is accepted and the editors have submitted an introductory essay.

Short symposia: After a proposal for a symposium is accepted, guest editors assemble contributions, and organize their timely submission (as a single, anonymized document, eg, by numbering the individual contributions, rather than including authors' names). This document should include the editors' introduction. Guest editors are strongly encouraged to review drafts of the contributions, prior to submission, and to give feedback to the authors, particularly with an eye to coherence among the contributions. Guest editors must provide the journal with at least 6 referee names (referees will review the symposium as a whole). The names should not simply be ones provided by the authors and they should not include names of referees with clear conflicts of interest or who are at the same institutions as the authors or guest editors. When a Symposium is published in print, its Introduction receives a Main DOI (eg, 10.1177/2399654420911410) and each other contribution receives a unique sub-DOI (Main + a, b, c, etc.).

**Note that, for both theme issues and short symposia, guest editors are not involved in assessing reviews or making decisions. This is done by the handling editor. Guest editors will be copied on handling editors' decision letters for their information and so they can consult with the authors, if they so choose.