
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The Internet-driven realignment of American politics, moving states from red to blue and mobilizing millions of first-time voters for change, will surely date to November 4, 2008. YouTube, Facebook, and the raging blogosphere are just a few of the many cyber weapons platforms of mass mobilization. Citizens, activists and bloggers used these tools widely and successfully to smoke Karl Rove out of his spider hole and push the presumptive permanent Republican majority back into its last redoubts. Barack Obama's campaign's mastery of Web 2.0 architecture was sublime. His hugely successful "MyBarackObama" Website remains up and running, linking tens of millions of activists to the rest of the online citizenry via gadgets and Web-based apps that make robo-calls look quaintly twentieth century.

The 2008 election left little doubt, in my mind, that the first Internet-dominated US election cycle is to be followed by the first authentic World Wide Web presidency. A more dialogical eGovernment 2.0 likely will emerge, in both policy-making and more widespread democratic practice. As a result, scholars will sample from more diverse and voluminous political datasets than ever before. This is fertile ground for new baseline measures and innovative data mashups that undoubtedly belong on the pages of *JITP*.

Another change we can believe in is the welcome new addition of Michelle Sagan Gonçalves as the Managing Editor of *JITP*. Having lost Adrienne Wiley to a fulltime position at another press and wandered somewhat aimlessly in the woods doing the job myself for several months, I am tremendously relieved to have added Michelle to the *JITP* management team. She brings a wealth of experience and tremendous skills developed working closely with Dr. Jane Fountain and

the National Center for Digital Government here at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In addition, we are pleased to have Tracey Garlington on board as an Editorial Assistant to help keep *JITP* running smoothly. After a rough, time-consuming transition during and after the move, I hope to see the journal settle nicely here in the Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts.

This is the final issue of *JITP*'s second volume. Running a journal that is open to interdisciplinary research and reviewers, yet one that is firmly rooted in the American Political Science Association, is a challenge. Managing the divergent views of reviewers across the disciplines, in this context, is just one aspect of the weekly grind. I am extremely proud of the effort by the many *JITP* board members, reviewers and authors who helped to get us to this point, but a fresh and frank dialogue is called for. Early in 2009 there will be a chance to discuss and shape the future direction of *JITP*. I hope readers and contributors alike will help chart the way forward when the online participation opportunity presents itself.

While *JITP* continues to define its own identity, so too does Europe. In "European CyberIdentity? Political Strategies and Realities of dot EU," Natascha Zowislo-Grünewald and Franz Beitzinger trace the problematic process of establishing "fundamental concepts of political identity" online. The notion of a strong geographic identity aligning with an online, economic, or multinational political identity is fraught with conceptual and practical difficulties. Zowislo-Grünewald and Beitzinger show how a well-intentioned symbolic representation of political identity online struggles to take root in the competitive identity marketplace.

JITP is a welcoming home for research on political blogs. While the study of blogs by

political science is emerging only slowly, part of the reason is we have as yet few established guidelines or well-known tools with which to study them systematically. David Karpf usefully pushes the matter forward in "Understanding Blogspace," where he highlights the need to delineate some of the architectural diversity defining the platform. The blogosphere, he argues, is comprised of different blogspaces, which enable or disable different forms of activity. A typology of blog spaces is useful, as it suggests a theoretical basis for testing propositions about the role of blog architecture in shaping novel measures, such as Karpf's intriguing Blogosphere Authority Index.

Internet-enabled mass participation in rule-making has captured my attention for several years. The practice of submitting comments online is now easier than ever and some groups like to run up the numbers to make a political point. While the occurrence of these campaigns is rare when measured as a proportion of the total number of opportunities to comment in a given year, prior research has shown that just one or two surges in participation per year can impact the smooth functioning of the "notice and comment" process in U.S. rulemaking. In "Participation in E-Rulemaking: Interest Groups and the Standard-Setting Process for Hazardous Air Pollutants," David Shafie looks closely at the nature of the participation in a small sample of Environmental Protection

Agency rules and finds "little support for the notion of interest groups exploiting new media to drastically increase the volume of comments."

In their Policy Viewpoint titled "Lessons for Government Adoption of Open Standards: A Case Study of the Massachusetts Policy," Rajiv C. Shah, Jay P. Kesan, and Andrew Kennis tell a cautionary story of "OpenDocument Format" (ODF) adoption in Massachusetts. The article is relevant to anyone with a stake or interest in the long-term preservation of government documents. The lessons learned serve as a practical guide not just for advocates of ODF standards, but also for a wide range of large-scale IT adoption issues that intersect around technical, economic, and democratic dimensions. Openness and transparency are the new watchwords, but universal document access now and into the future remains a murky and messy issue given the dominance of proprietary software in the current environment.

Finally, another warm round of thanks and congratulations and thanks go to Dr. Andrew Chadwick. Andy somehow manages to keep the quality book reviews coming in even while welcoming a new member of his family to the earth. Best wishes to the Chadwicks from everyone at JITP.

Dr. Stuart W. Shulman
Editor