



1-1-1997

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Ingle '97, Jaime and Konczal '97, Paul (1997) "Introduction," *Res Publica - Journal of Undergraduate Research*: Vol. 2

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/respublica/vol2/iss1/3>

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Introduction

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Last year marked the maiden voyage of *Res Publica*. What began as only an idea materialized into a successful enterprise. Wanting to keep the flame burning by seeing *Res Publica* roll hot off the presses for a second time, we gladly accepted the torch which was passed on to us. As co-editors for the journal, we have had the privilege to edit some of the finest student research conducted by students from the political science department. This volume includes a variety of scholar topics, ranging from women's issues to theories on the legitimacy of government.

To accentuate our belief in the importance of research within political science, we decided to include a Research Odyssey written by Sarah N. Anderson. The Research Odyssey is a "back stage" look at the world of social science research, explicating many of the problems which can, and do, occur during the research process. It is our hope that this coverage of an often hidden aspect of research will provide a better understanding of what exactly research entails.

Another important aspect of research is exploring developing fields within political science. Because of the expansion of the political science department's curriculum, students have the opportunity to be exposed to many of these developing fields. Courses such as Women in Politics, the revamped International Political Economy, and Advanced Industrial Democracies allow students to explore research interests within these fields. Julie Lenggenhager and Jennifer Pence are prime examples of students incorporating interests taken from these types of courses into their own original research. Jennifer Pence's essay explores the controversial issue of how much control women have over their bodies. Her research looks at women in several countries spanning the globe to try to answer this intriguing question. This project earned Jennifer Research Honors this spring. Julie Lenggenhager's interest in women in politics lead her to investigate this topic in her senior seminar research project. Julie was interested in finding out what it takes for women to succeed in American politics.

Political science research of age old questions also gave students another outlet through which they could explore their interests. Many of these interests are best explored within the field of political theory. Paul A. Konczal's original research, conducted as part of an independent study, tackles the issue of government legitimacy. After making a case against traditional consent theory, Paul develops his own theory of legitimate government which he calls critical citizenship. Andrea Grabemeyer's essay on Hamilton's rationalism shows that political theorists often develop an interest in this field early in their collegiate career. Only in her freshman year, already, Andrea has shown that she has the potential to succeed within this area of political

science. The inclusion of her piece in *Res Publica* suggests that there is emerging talent among newcomers to the department.

Amy Tenhouse also took an interest in politics in her freshman year and used her interest in American politics to produce original research on the U.S. House of Representatives. In the spirit of traditional American politics, Amy's paper tries to explain why incumbents often are reelected to Congress. Her research addresses a question that is relevant to today's political science students and scholars.

As students of political science, editing this journal has helped us broaden our knowledge of fields in political science as well as develop our writing skills. Editing this journal has been a rewarding experience for both of us, as our main goal has been to present our colleagues in the best possible light. We encourage all students who have taken political science courses to submit entries next year. It is only through the continued dedication of students in the field of political science that *Res Publica* will be able to embark on her third voyage.

Jaime Ingle and Paul Konczal
Editors