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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

Editor's Introduction

We are proud to present the 23rd edition of *Res Publica*, Illinois Wesleyan University's Undergraduate Political Science Journal. Publication of a journal, as we have learned, is a long process with many steps, but it is a work that we have enjoyed very much over the last few months. We are immensely pleased with the high quality of work that was submitted for publication this year, and we are grateful for the privilege of compiling this volume. Together, these works represent some of the very best political scholarship at Illinois Wesleyan University.

This year, we decided to make some editorial changes to the format of *Res Publica*. The 23rd edition includes student work for the entire calendar year of 2017, not just the Fall semester of the 2017-2018 Academic Year. Additionally, we have introduced the "critical discussion" section. These choices allow for the inclusion of a wider range of student work, and we are very proud to say that students from each academic class are represented in this year's edition of *Res Publica*.

For this edition, we have chosen to feature work which truly represents the original meaning of *res publica*, a Latin phrase that translates to "public matter." In these pages, key issues in political science are questioned; authors address group representation, populism, the role of citizenship, and the effect of partisanship. In "critical discussion," the reader will find a series of micro-essays that address the role of civil disobedience in society. From analyzing the effect of partisanship on the passage of pro-environmental policy, to analyzing anti-immigration attitudes and support for Brexit, each author presents excellent scholarship that ultimately addresses public matters and the role of democracy. These issues are important for understanding the political system that we face as citizens in a time of high partisanship, global discontent, and uncertainty.

The editorial staff would like to thank all of our authors for their contributions to the 23rd edition of *Res Publica*. Their enthusiasm for this project, and willingness to share their original work was refreshing, and without their involvement, this journal could not be a success. In addition to the authors' contributions, this edition of *Res Publica* is the culmination of the efforts of many individuals that we would like to thank. Thank you to Anneke Nilles for her collaboration and design of this year's cover art. It represents issues that citizens face today and captures the public spirit of activism that we have seen globally in 2017 and 2018, as well as on the IWU campus this year through the annual theme of "The Evolution of Revolution." We would also like to thank IWU Printing Services for their assistance with the printing and publication of this journal. A special thank you also goes to our associate editor, Benjamin Nielsen who helped us tremendously with the editorial process. Finally, we would like to thank the Political Science faculty, who provided us with invaluable insight and encouragement throughout this process. Thank you for your eagerness and willingness to support us in this endeavor.

Producing this journal has been a joy. We hope that you enjoy this, the 23rd edition of *Res Publica*.

Brianna Bacigalupo and Zoe Bouras