Perspectives on Politics seeks to promote scholarly sharing between and among political scientists that is serious, rigorous, relevant, honest and intellectually fair.

In light of all rhetoric of intellectual probity surrounding the controversy over the DA-RT (“Data Access and Research Transparency”) initiative, we underscore that Perspectives has long been committed to the highest standards of general research transparency.

Perspectives is a scholarly journal of political science fully committed to double-blind peer review of all research articles and to honest and open sharing of ideas and evidence. We regard such commitments as essential to the publicity and intellectual care at the heart of all serious scholarly inquiry and publication. Our policies have reflected these commitments from the start of our editorship.

Since 2009 we have thus shared versions of the letter below with all authors of articles we are publishing. The letter encourages authors to make their evidentiary sources, including data, accessible, and invites them to take advantage of resources provided by the journal and Cambridge University Press (who hosts supplemental material at permanent links) to prepare these sources in a manner that seems reasonable given their work and their personal convictions as authors and valued colleagues.

This policy has been voluntary and it will remain voluntary. At the same time, we work very closely with authors in the development of their work, and in recent years this policy has been strongly encouraged as part of a more general conversation about how to publish the best work possible.

Jeffrey C. Isaac, Editor in Chief, Perspectives on Politics
James Moskowitz, Managing Editor, Perspectives on Politics
Perspectives on Politics – Supplementary Materials and Data Guidelines

Dear XXXXXX,

On the first page of articles, *Perspectives on Politics* includes a note to readers regarding the availability of supplemental materials. Online materials may include additional tables, graphs, and extended commentary. We encourage authors to supply appropriate materials for the purposes of transparency and/or replication. Therefore, as we approach the proofs/copy editing stage for each accepted article, we ask that you supply our offices with some information about the materials you deem necessary to fulfill this important scholarly responsibility.

Authors of articles in this journal that rely on quantitative data are encouraged to provide - for storage in a Cambridge University Press-provided public archive -- the information necessary to replicate their numerical results. The information deposited should include items such as original data, specialized computer programs, lists of computer program recodes, extracts of existing data files, and most important, an explanatory file that describes what is included and explains how to re-produce the exact numerical results in the published work.

Authors of works relying upon qualitative data are encouraged (but not required) to submit comparable materials that would facilitate replication where feasible, and that would allow readers to clearly evaluate the evidentiary basis of arguments for interpretive research in which “replication” is not an appropriate standard. In many cases article endnotes properly citing all sources and references are sufficient.

Statements explaining the inappropriateness of sharing data for a specific work (or of indeterminate periods of embargo of the data or portions of it) can fulfill the journal expectation. If necessary, peer reviewers can be asked to assess this statement as part of the general evaluative process, and to advise the editor accordingly. In almost all cases of limited access, some excerpt or sub-sample of data can be provided in the interim.

As always, authors are advised to remove information from their data sets that must remain confidential, such as the names of survey respondents. Also as always, we affirm our commitment to the autonomy of our authors. Your research and writing is your own, and you are the best judge of the kinds of supplementary materials that are best suited to your style of research and writing.

In establishing these expectations, our goal is to facilitate the kind of publicity that is at the heart of scholarly communication.

To submit files, or documents, please reply with attachments to this email.

A NOTE ON TIMING - Before XX/XX/XXX, please let us know if/what you intend to send for upload. A short list of contents or filenames is fine. For example: (Appendix Tables 1-4, Explanatory File, Data Appendix, Summary Statistics, Transcript of Interview,
Interview excerpts, etc.

An example of how this appears in the pages of Perspectives is shown above. You can also see and download a variety of examples online at CJO – just look for articles with the supplementary data flag.

Supplemental Materials

- Online Appendix
- Sample questions and excerpted responses from interviews with members of the real estate tax collectors' movement
- YouTube videos consulted
- Clips of protests (including chants)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S153759271500225X

References


Amaney A. Jamal, Robert O. Keohane, David Romney and Dustin Tingley
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Understandably, the actual files may take some time to prepare. These could follow any time after your response to this letter — as long as they arrive before XX/XX/XXXX.

Best wishes,

James Moskowitz
Managing Editor
Perspectives on Politics