Editors' Note

Political Analysis is a leader among social science journals with regard to policies on data access, replication, and research transparency. Our policies are examples that other journals have followed, and we are proud of the role that we have played helping promote better social science through data access and research transparency (DA–RT). We thought that we would update our readers about our policies, given the conversations that have taken place at recent professional conferences, and in other venues.

Given the leading role that *Political Analysis* has played in this area, we recently were pleased to work with a number of other journal editors and interested colleagues to draft a joint statement on journal DA–RT policies. This joint statement on DA–RT policies is available at http://www.dartstatement.org. *Political Analysis* was one of the first journals to sign this statement, because at the time we made this commitment, we had already announced and implemented policies that met the statement's goals.

Recently, we have heard from colleagues expressing concerns about the implementation of the joint statement on journal DA–RT. In particular, a collection of scholars recently sent us a petition (dated November 12, 2015). This petition requests that journal editors delay implementation of these policies until some undefined point in the future. While we agree that discussion of these policies is important, as *Political Analysis* has already implemented these policies (most were in fact in place well before the joint statement was drafted), delaying their implementation for *Political Analysis* is a moot point.

Our current policies on data access, replication, and research transparency are working well; in particular, our policies on replication have been well received by our authors and readers. At last count (September 2015), we had 248 studies in the journal's Dataverse, and those studies have been downloaded 19,311 times. Those numbers have grown since then. We see this as an amazing success, and while there is still work needed to improve our replication procedures, our policies are working for our authors and readers.

We believe that an open and informed discussion about DA–RT is important for social science, and we will continue to engage in this conversation. Strong DA–RT policies are important for the development of political methodology. Political methodologists have been early proponents of these principles; for example, Gary King, a member of the *Political Analysis* Editorial Board, outlined many of the basic arguments for replication standards twenty years ago, in his paper "Replication, replication."[1]

Our journal's policies regarding DA–RT are available on our website, http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/polana/for_authors/general.html. We will continue our commitment to those principles, and we will be working to enhance and improve our journal's policies as necessary. Readers who have questions, suggestions, or comments about *Political Analysis*'s policies with respect to research transparency and data accessibility are encouraged to contact the co-editors, our Advisory Board, or members of our Editorial Board.

R. Michael Alvarez and Jonathan N. Katz
Co-Editors

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[1]Gary King. 1995. Replication, replication. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 28(3):443–52.