

Global Discourse Policy Section: Author Submission Guidelines

Background

Over many years, the gap between academics who produce knowledge, and policymakers and practitioners who can often benefit from and contribute to that knowledge, has grown wider. This is due to a range of factors, including academic studies of niche topics, academic output written in an opaque or esoteric style, and the dearth of forums to facilitate meaningful engagement between academics and policymakers. To address the gap and to foster social goods, funding bodies often incorporate a commitment to dissemination and public engagement as conditions of awards, while evaluative programmes, such as the UK Research Excellence Framework, increasingly emphasise the value of real world ‘impact’ in scholarly work through Impact Case Studies. However, this has not necessarily led to attendant shifts in academic publishing: all too often, journals fail to recognise the importance of direct engagement between academics and policy makers.

Global Discourse sees policy making as a central feature of academic publishing within the social sciences and each issue includes a Policy Section in which policy makers respond to the core topics and debates raised by the academic content. The section, which is around 10,000 words in length per issue, consists of either a series of shorter 1,000 word pieces in direct response to the articles in the issue or a series of longer pieces of 3,000 words in a symposium addressing a central topic of contention raised by the issue. The purpose of the section is to create space for thoroughgoing engagement between academics and policy makers in specific fields to examine the scope of application for ideas advanced within the issue and to present cutting edge policy positions that have transformative capacity. We actively solicit a diverse range of opinions and responses in order to overcome the ‘echo chamber’ effect that so often dominates discussions. Put simply, the *Global Discourse* Policy Section is driven by intellectual need, not ideological dogma.

Contributions are solicited by the Editors from think tanks, local and national government, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, charities, political parties, journalists and leading figures in business and industry. Policy makers can propose, in response to the [list of forthcoming issues](#), symposia and contributions more generally by contacting the Policy Section Editor directly.

Guidance

Policy papers take one of two forms:

- A policy reply piece of 1,000 words in response to an article within an issue. This is generally solicited in response to an issue in which papers make direct claims of relevance to policy making.
- A policy symposium piece of 3,000 words within a symposium of 2-4 contributions, which respond to a single topic raised by the issue. This option is best suited for issues focused on academic theory or the state of the discipline with implications on policy making that can best be explored through several perspectives on the topic.

Wordcounts are inclusive of all tables, references, figure captions, footnotes, and endnotes. Policy papers must conform to the journal’s [house style](#) and should be referenced, but it is anticipated that Policy papers will have fewer references to academic literature and will engage more broadly with relevant non-academic sources.

Process

Policy papers are always published in the same edition as the academic papers to which they are responding. The editors of issues liaise with the Policy Editor, Russell Foster (russell.1.foster@kcl.ac.uk) to shape the section and identify prospective contributors. The Policy Editor then solicits pieces directly from prospective contributors by email. Contributors for shorter pieces are given two months in which to reply to their respective articles. Contributors for longer, symposium pieces are given three months in which to formulate their piece.

All submissions will be reviewed by Members of the Editorial Advisory Board. The Board may accept, request revisions or reject pieces. Each decision will be accompanied with feedback for authors. Revised pieces must be resubmitted, with an overview of revisions, to the Policy Editor for final screening within one month of receiving the original decision.

All conditionally accepted pieces must be submitted through the Editorial Manager portal, which will be available shortly. For information about what this should include, please [see the journal's instructions for authors](#) (section: 'Editorial Manager'). Pieces will undergo a standard copy-editing process, and authors will receive proofs of manuscripts that will include a list of 'author queries'. Authors are asked to reply to these queries within three days of receipt.

Submissions

Please liaise with the Policy Editor, Russell Foster, by email in advance of submission.

Dr Russell Foster
Department of European and International Studies
King's College London
Virginia Woolf Building
22 Kingsway
London
WC1B 6LT
Email: russell.1.foster@kcl.ac.uk