The Benefits of Claiming Your Early Research Using Preprints

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American Political Science Association and Cambridge University Press

**Growth in preprints over time**

Is preprint the future of science? A thirty year journey of online preprint services, Xie et al, arXiv:2102.09066

**APSA Preprints by the numbers**

- Over 400 pieces of live content (not including versions)
- Over 200,000 abstract views
- Over 130,000 content downloads
- 30 preprints (7%) now published in peer-reviewed journals including APSR, AJPS, WP
- Turnaround Time: 26.2 hours (including holidays/weekends)
- Platform for 3 APSA Events (2021 Annual Meeting, 2020 Virtual Meeting, 2020 TLC)
- Top Category: Comparative Politics
- 7% rejection rate
- 84 new versions uploaded

**Discover APSA Preprints**

**Author Survey – Sept 2021**

- “It was very easy and I think an effective way to ‘get out in front’ on an idea.”
- “This experience has motivated me to use it again in the future.”
- “If medicine and the natural sciences can get quick publicity on current issues for pre-prints, why can’t Political Science?”
- My work has been rejected by several journals. This made me convinced that my research was not relevant to them.”
- “I don’t generally use pre-print servers, but I like the idea that APSA has a centralized one. It’s easy enough to use, and my hope is that the discipline can coalesce around using the APSA server so that everything will be available in one place.”

**Geography of APSA Preprints**

**COVID-19 and Media**

- 62 COVID-19 related papers started their journey on APSA Preprints
- Most Downloaded Paper on APSA Preprints: Gingerich and Vogler, "Pandemics and Political Development: The Electoral Legacy of the Black Death in Germany" (over 8,000 views and 4,000 downloads)
- Medical preprints have been mentioned in all of the major news outlets during the pandemic
- Hydroxychloroquine was indicated as a successful treatment for COVID in a peer-reviewed journal article, and has since been debunked by a preprint.