

---

## Editorial

---

### Changing the guard on the environmental side of EPC

The editors and staff at *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* (EPC) are excited about what 2015 and the future will bring. But 2015 will be no normal year for the journal, as a major editorial change on the environmental side of EPC is taking place. Andrew Jordan, my comanaging editor since January 2008, has decided to step down from this role, starting with this issue. His position—with the specific mandate of preserving and, if possible, enhancing the environmental policy credentials of the journal—has been passed on to Henrik Selin, who has been an editor of the journal since 2010. In addition, David Benson has taken on the role of editor with special responsibility for book reviews.



**Andrew Jordan**

Andrew has decided the time is right to hand at least part of the reins of the journal to another editor. He rightly feels that the task we set out to achieve in 2008 has, to a large extent, been accomplished. Andrew has been an editor of the journal since 1998 and comanaging editor since 2008. Only Bob Bennett, the founder of the journal—who is still a lively editor thirty-one years after the journal was founded—has had a longer engagement with it.

In Andrew's seventeen years of service the journal has changed beyond recognition. In 1998 the journal increased from four to six issues per year. However, this represented only forty-three papers and a total of 782 pages. This was a time when journal editing was light years away from current practices. There were no electronic submissions; prospective authors sent multiple copies of their papers in brown envelopes by normal or registered mail, and editors used the same method to approach referees and communicate editorial decisions. As there was no administrative support, these were time-consuming tasks. In the early days,

Andrew possibly spent as much time writing addresses and sticking stamps on envelopes as reading the papers. But the task was made manageable because the number of submissions was a fraction of the submissions the journal receives today: in 1998 the six editors of the journal handled a mere 100 manuscripts.

The job has changed significantly in the meantime. Gone are the brown envelopes, the writing of addresses by hand, and the photocopying of papers. The journal has massively benefited from fantastic editorial support (currently in the form of our Editorial Manager, Lee Mager) and has welcomed electronic submissions. More importantly, EPC has become a much more attractive and international journal. These changes are in no small part the result of Andrew's scientific leadership and managerial skills. Since taking his role as managing editor in 2008, submissions have risen from 147 (2008) to 351 (2014). The bulk of the increase

---

has come from Asia and Latin America, while the relative contribution from the traditional hunting grounds of the UK and the US has declined.

Andrew has also overseen a significant rise in the standing of the journal. This has been mainly translated into its relentless increase in impact factor. Much of this has come both from the leadership he has shown in giving the journal a greater focus, while preserving the plurality and broad reach of the editorial team, as well as through the papers in environmental governance and policy-related areas which he has edited over the years. He has also been a prolific editor of theme issues: four special issues (1999, 2012, and two in 2014) bear his name. In particular, the last three are proving extremely popular with our readers and are likely to continue to help raise the profile of the journal for years to come. With Andrew at the helm, the journal also underwent a smooth transition to becoming a fully electronic journal, completed with the implementation of ScholarOne Manuscripts in 2013.

We are therefore very lucky that we are not losing him altogether. He has taken the shrewd decision of stepping down from the role of managing editor and becoming a regular editor. He is astutely relinquishing the routine administrative tasks, while keeping for himself the most enjoyable part of the job: that of guiding and supervising the production of high-quality, cutting-edge research. Hence, although at EPC we are extremely grateful for the leadership and work Andrew has delivered over the years, we are even happier that—as in the case of Bob Bennett before—he will remain with us making sure on a daily basis that EPC continues to publish research on the governance of a wide range of issues which sit at the interface between the economy, society, and the environment.



**Henrik Selin**

His position as managing editor will not remain vacant. Henrik Selin, of the Frederick S Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, has agreed to take over as comanaging editor from this very issue. Henrik has the advantage that, as an editor since 2010, he knows the journal inside out and will be able to very easily take over Andrew's role. His strong research record on the politics and policy making on environment and sustainable development will provide continuity to the important role that Andrew has developed in a field which not only poses fundamental and growing challenges to academics and decision makers alike, but which has also become an area in which EPC has gained a strong and deserved reputation. Given his research interests, he will also be able to push the boundaries of the journal farther in the area of sustainable development. Moreover, as the first managing editor based outside the UK, he will reinforce

EPC's global reach. And as a native Swede working in the US, he will be able to build bridges between the two largest EPC communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

---

Last but not least, David Benson, of the Department of Politics and the Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, is joining us as editor, with special responsibility for book reviews. David is an environmental social scientist with multiple



**David Benson**

research interests. He has published extensively on policy, politics, and governance issues, with a particular emphasis on the role of the European Union in governing the environment. He also teaches public policy, EU politics, and global governance. His current research activities include investigating the integration of climate adaptation into water resources management in the UK and other countries worldwide, work on the development of the green economy, and also examining collaborative approaches to environmental management. He is looking forward to using this experience to help the EPC editorial team in our quest to continue to publish world-class and cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

Overall, this reshuffling represents the determination of all EPC editors to keep on reinforcing the very strong line-up of environmental editors. This is an area of the journal that has played a major role in the development of EPC's identity since its inception and which has displayed considerable dynamism in recent years. With these changes in the line-up, we ensure that environmental governance and sustainable development will continue—together with other traditional themes covered in the journal, such as the decentralisation of the state, regional economic development, and urban planning—to be areas in which EPC will keep on developing new ideas, challenging existing knowledge, and shaping the intellectual and policy agendas for years to come.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics