

Editorial Note

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Welcome to the latest issue of *Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science*. This compelling array of interdisciplinary articles offers unique perspectives on complex issues in international finance, criminal governance, social mobilization, electoral phenomena, and energy transitions.

Minglou Li explores the internationalization of China's renminbi (RMB) and its potential to transform the global monetary system. Employing a mixed theoretical approach, Li analyzes China's growing monetary influence through the lens of power transition theory and neofunctionalism. This multifaceted analysis evaluates the RMB's evolving role at both the global and regional levels.

Jean Vilbert unravels the paradoxical links between crime governance and social mobilization in Brazilian favelas. Going beyond conventional explanations, Vilbert utilizes tools from contentious politics and qualitative meta-analysis to reveal the nuanced interactions between organized criminal groups, the state, and favela residents. The findings highlight the complicated motivations shaping residents' responses, explaining why some accept criminal rule while mobilizing against state interventions.

Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui challenges prevailing narratives surrounding Donald Trump's 2016 electoral victory. Rejecting simplistic "whitelash" explanations, Siddiqui offers a more detailed analysis grounded in right-wing populism. By examining diverse factors, from campaign strategies to critiques of democracy, he provides a comprehensive framework that transcends the limitations of the "whitelash" concept.

Our new Conversations section features Serena Saligari's exploration of energy transitions in an informal settlement in Kenya. Through vivid ethnographic study, Saligari complicates conventional perspectives, emphasizing context-specific, culturally sensitive approaches to clean energy policymaking. Her work spotlights the social dimensions of energy access, pushing beyond technological shifts to address local communities' diverse concerns. Saligari's groundbreaking visual poster enriches her essay, offering an accessible snapshot of the complex dynamics surrounding sociotechnical change.

This innovative scholarship signals Politikon’s commitment to amplifying diverse, inclusive academic voices. As we embrace new genres and perspectives, we look forward to pushing boundaries and fostering interdisciplinary insights into pressing global challenges. In an increasingly complex world, it is vital that Political Science remains creative, adaptive, and connected to real-world contexts. Static, siloed approaches cannot adequately grasp the multidimensional issues societies face today—from climate instability to global health crises, migration flows to authoritarian resurgence. By opening our pages to interdisciplinary work, we want to support innovative theoretical frameworks, methodological tools, and analytical approaches that keep pace with our rapidly changing planet. Politikon seeks to spur positive change in Political Science—one that bridges divides, synthesizes knowledge across diverse fields, and engages substantively with the concerns of marginalized communities. Only then can our understanding of vexing phenomena move beyond surface explanations to reveal underlying drivers, interdependencies, and human impacts. This spirit of creative engagement, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and contextual sensitivity will shape the journal’s aspirations in future editions in 2024. We invite bold, boundary-pushing submissions from scholars worldwide seeking to advance political science’s frontiers and societal relevance.