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A large, light blue, semi-transparent globe is centered in the background, showing the outlines of the continents of North and South America. The globe is partially obscured by the text.

# Politikon

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## Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

We proudly present Vol. 36 of *Politikon*, the flagship academic journal of the International Association for Political Science Students.

*Politikon* is open to talented junior scholars regardless of their formal academic status. This is evident from the diversity of backgrounds of our authors, whose papers successfully passed our peer-review process.

Our first paper reinterprets George Orwell's *1984* dystopia to analyse surveillance policies under the Bush and Obama administration, while pointing out the latter's authoritarian tendencies. Although from a different perspective, the second paper also addresses the U.S. domestic context. In particular, it adopts a structural realist view to contend that the power of domestic actors in shaping foreign policy is bounded by international constraints. This argument is illustrated through two case studies: the Kennedy Administration's response to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Bush Administration's response to the Israeli Operation Defensive Shield. Our third paper uses multilevel modeling with cross-sectional data from the World Values Survey, Freedom House and other sources to examine the relationship between generalized trust and rule of law on a national level. In so doing, it captures an important gap in the literature, which has focused rather on related issues of property rights, economic freedom and corruption. Our fourth paper adopts discourse theory to address a niche yet fascinating topic, namely the domestic debate on shared parenting in Germany, and offers us tools to spot science and advocacy approaches. Our final paper revisits the 2013 Hefazat-e-Islam protests in Bangladesh, a religion-based social movement, through the philosophical lenses on popular resistance by Antonio Gramsci (*Prison Notebooks*, 1948) and James Scott (*Weapons of the Weak*, 1985) as well as Nelson Mandela's autobiographical piece (*Long Walk to Freedom*, 1994).

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We look forward to reviewing your work!

Your Editors