

# Shaking Things Up? Thoughts about the Future of Political Science: An Introduction

This symposium presents the remarks from a roundtable at the 2001 APSA Annual meeting. Originally conceptualized as a discussion in which political theorists would speak with political scientists of a more empirical orientation, the roundtable broadened its purview to tap into the richness of the debate engendered by the Perestroika communications that spread throughout the discipline of political science throughout 2000–2001.<sup>1</sup> The panelists hoped to encourage public discussion about the future of political science. As panel organizer, I suggested we consider, but not necessarily restrict our discussion to the apparent tensions between making genuinely scientific contributions, advancing knowledge in rigorous ways within specialized subfields, and ad-

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addressing substantive political issues of general interest in a broadly accessible manner. Each panelist was asked to write a short statement addressing these concerns and suggesting how they would like political science to look in the next 10 years. Each panelist then circulated this statement to the other panelists, in an effort to encourage the exchange of ideas. At the roundtable itself, panelists spoke only briefly to summarize these previously exchanged written remarks. There were so many requests for copies of the full remarks, however, that we are publishing them in *PS*, in the hope that this might further encourage a productive, civil, and open debate about the future of political science among the broader intellectual community.

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## Note

1. As an empirical political theorist, I find this juxtaposition artificial and hope the discipline can move away from it in the years to come.

## SYMPOSIUM CONTRIBUTORS

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