

A statement from the editors of *Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica* - Italian Political Science Review

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"In December 2014, we began to implement our policy on data access and research transparency, asking authors to upload on the IPSR-RISP Dataverse repository the material necessary for replicating results. It took a while to implement it, but now, we require the authors to send all the necessary information to replicate the tables and figures of their article. We also began to perform in-house checks of this material prior to publication. Next year, we should be able to perform these checks more systematically.

We ask also scholars that employ qualitative methods to share their material, as much as they can, in order to facilitate replication. In our experience, this has not been problematic for scholars using documentary evidence but other colleagues have been reasonably reluctant to share interview material, even if anonymized, because it would breach confidentiality and jeopardize future research. One scholar told us that now even journalists are showing interest in this material.

We feel that these are legitimate concerns. However, with reference to the recent petition to delay implementation of these rules, we will not roll back what we have done so far because these measures have facilitated the emergence of a replication culture that we wish to cultivate among our contributors.

We have opened up a debate with the members of our international advisory board and the executive committees of the journal and of our association (the Italian Political Science Association) about ways to address these concerns. We would not want our replication policy to be implicitly biased against one methodology, nor would we want however to miss opportunities to improve data access and transparency where possible.

We are aware that different research methods need to balance differently transparency and replicability with confidentiality and feasibility. There is no therefore a single transparency policy that fits all the research methods. Our rules will be fine-tuned accordingly, but we see the current initiative as a step in the direction of better research.

Regards,

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