

EDITOR'S NOTE

Political theory is seemingly at a crossroads. Are political theorists still relevant? Is there still room for political theory in political science departments? With political theory graduate programs being cut and political theorists dwindling on faculties, there is reason for concern.

I, however, am not so pessimistic. In January of 2023, in Tampa, Florida, *The Political Science Reviewer* and the Center for the Study of Citizenship and Constitutional Government at Notre Dame hosted a conference called “The Future Before Us: Early Career Women in Political Theory and Constitutional Studies.” Our aim was to gather a group of “early career” women, who we think are the brightest lights for the future of the discipline, to present and to workshop papers written for the symposium. The theme of the conference was for participants to each present on a subject central to their research agenda. We gathered, papers were presented, and serious discussion and workshopping unfolded. The conference was remarkable for the genuine care and concern the authors had for their fellow symposiasts and their scholarship.

This issue of the *PSR* is the culmination of more than a year of thinking, reading, writing, reviewing, revising, and polishing by these women. It presents an impressive array of scholarship that highlights many promising directions for advancing ideas in the political theory field. The hosts of this effort hope the scholarship and careers of these authors will follow in the footsteps of our keynote speaker at the conference, Arlene Saxonhouse. Professor Saxonhouse delivered a moving address about the trials and tribulations of the first wave of women pursuing academic careers in political theory. That speech is included in this volume, and we encourage our readers to share it with the early career women in their orbits. We are deeply grateful to Professor Saxonhouse for her time and mentorship.

The next few issues of the *PSR* have no particular theme but will feature essays from Epictetus to Heidegger, from Plato to Cherokee political thought. In the summer of 2024, we will feature a special issue from another January conference, “Traditions of Latin American Political Thought and Constitutionalism.” We ask our readers to continue submitting articles and suggesting ideas for future conversations and symposia.

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