

Dear colleagues,

The *Review of International Organizations* publishes original scientific contributions in the entire field of international political economy, with a focus on the policies and structure of international organizations.

Following the lead of the *APSR*, we now allow rejected articles from selected other journals to be transferred to the *RIO* and offer to transfer manuscripts that are rejected at the *RIO* to these journals.

Review Transfer Policy

To speed the review process along and reduce redundant reviewer workload, we allow the transfer from the *RIO* of manuscripts that have been reviewed and rejected to another participating journal (“transfer out” policy). We therefore encourage reviewers to provide detailed and forward-looking advice (for example, if a paper belongs somewhere, but not the *RIO*). We will also allow the transfer of reviewed manuscripts to the *RIO* (“transfer in” policy).

Transferring a Reviewed Manuscript to Another Journal (Transfer Out Policy)

When a paper is rejected by the *RIO* **with reviews**, the corresponding author will be notified in the rejection letter that they have the option to transfer their manuscript and reviews to another journal. This policy is implemented as follows:

1. The author is notified in the rejection letter about this option.
2. If the author wishes to take this step, they consult the transfer policies of the participating journals and proceed as requested there.
3. On request of the journal, we send the anonymized MS and the anonymized reviews to the new editor.
4. If the recipient journal’s editor wishes to know the identities of the reviewers, they respond to RIO@axel-dreher.de and request that information. We seek the reviewers’ consent and proceed accordingly.

Our initial request for review alerts reviewers of the possibility of this transfer. We will reveal the identity of reviewers to participating journal editors only and only with the reviewers’ explicit consent.

Transferring a reviewed manuscript to the *RIO* (Transfer In Policy)

When a paper is rejected by another journal with reviews and the journal has a transfer-agreement with *RIO* we will accept the transfer of the anonymous manuscript and reviews to the *RIO* to assist in our review process. We will accept reviews only from journals that allow the transfer of reviews from the *RIO* and where manuscripts are reviewed anonymously by external reviewers.

To initiate such a transfer, an author should proceed as follows:

1. The author should consult the transfer out policy of the transferring journal and proceed accordingly.

2. The author completes a normal new submission to the *RIO*. In the note to editor box in the submission system, the author should explain that they are requesting a transfer from another journal and specify that journal and manuscript number. The paper must have been rejected less than six months ago by the other journal.
3. The author should include *all* anonymous reviews from the transferring journal and a cover letter detailing any changes they have made (or not), as they would have done if they have had an invitation to revise & resubmit their paper at the *RIO*.
4. The *RIO* editor-in-chief might request the reviewer identities from the transferring journal.
5. The reviews and cover letter will be consulted in deciding on how to proceed. As with any other submission, a paper can be desk rejected, sent out for review, or offered a “revise and resubmit.” If a paper is sent out for review, prior reviewers may be consulted again if the editor believes it would be helpful. The editor is under no obligation to rely on these external reviews or to ask for additional comments from any prior reviewers.

Journals with which *RIO* has transfer agreements:

American Political Science Review

International Organization

International Studies Quarterly

Please consult with the guidelines of both journals involved in a transfer prior to initiating a transfer to understand their policies. Journals may ask you to submit a cover letter detailing any changes you have made or would propose to make if they review your manuscript. Importantly, journals may have different deadlines to initiate transfers.

Examples:

Transfer in

Assume your manuscript is rejected after review from *IO* and you would like to transfer to *RIO*. *IO* gives you four weeks to request the transfer. Please initiate the transfer with *IO* within these four weeks. *IO* will then get in touch with *RIO*. After you requested the transfer from *IO* you can either submit the paper as it is to *RIO*, explaining that you request a transfer from *IO* in your cover letter, and including *all* anonymous reports in your submission. You can but do not have to include a reply to the reviewers. In case you’d like to revise the paper before you submit to *RIO* you have six months after the *IO* rejection to do so. You can then submit the revised paper, including all reports and your reply via Editorial Manager. The *RIO* editor can decide to desk reject the paper, send it to new reviewers, or ask *IO* for the identity of the original reviewers and invite them to review.

Transfer out (please check the transfer policies of the participating journals):

Assume your manuscript is rejected after review from *RIO* and you would like to transfer to *IO*. *IO* gives you four weeks from the date of rejection to create a new submission to *IO*. In the “Author Comments” section of the submission system, the author should explain that they are requesting a transfer of reviews from *RIO*. Once submitted, authors should request that their manuscript and reviews be transferred to *IO* at RIO@axel-dreher.de. The *RIO* editor will ask reviewers for permission to transfer their identity to the *IO* editors on request from the *IO* editorial office.