A History of the Global Carbon Budget
Bård Lahn | WIREs Climate Change
"The idea of a global carbon budget—the cumulative amount of allowable carbon emissions to meet a global temperature target—has become established as a central concept in climate science and policy...This article reviews key contributions to the carbon budget literature from the 1980s until today, in order to identify how scientists have positioned the concept between the worlds of science and policy."

Cool Your Jets: Some Perspective on the Hyping of Hypersonic Weapons
Ivan Oelrich | Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
"Russia, China, and the United States are in a race to develop and deploy hypersonic glide weapons...Many of the claims made for hypersonic weapons are, however, overstated and much of what they can do could be accomplished more easily and cheaply using better-established technology, typically via the modification of ballistic missile warheads."

Democracy and Language in Jürgen Habermas’s Discourse Theory
Arianna Maceratini | Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric
"...Combining the reasons of the markets with those of civil solidarity, through independent forms of regulation both from the obsolete state sovereignties and from the traditional international perspectives, represents a primary challenge of the Habermasian theory where the critical role of the rational public sphere appears fundamental."

Why History Matters for Democracy
John Keane | Democratic Theory
"...There can be no Grand Theory of Democracy. Thinking about democracy is inevitably marked by a marvelously unfinished fluidity. It is an odyssey, an unending adventure bound by unexpected twists and turns..."

The Rise, Fall, and Afterlife of the Death Penalty in the United States
Carol S. Steiker, Jordan M. Steiker | Annual Review of Criminology
"The United States is exceptional in its retention and use of the death penalty, a position that puts it at odds with most of the developed, democratic world. American retention appears to be tied in part to its distinctive history of racial subordination and injustice."

Public Goods and Social Justice
Margaret Kohn | Perspectives on Politics
"Why should the state provide public goods?...[For reasons of] solidarism...[which] emphasizes that modernity gives rise to growing levels of interdependence that generate benefits and burdens that are not shared fairly. Public goods [compensate] for the negative externalities of urbanization and industrialization..."

Synthesizers: an Exploration Into the Iconicity of Marketplace Icons
Clinton D. Lanier, C. Scott Rader | Consumption Markets & Culture
"...At the heart of [the synthesizer], this unquestioned, though often polarizing, marketplace icon is a paradox between the synthesizer’s limitless power of sound design that appeals to musicians and the limiting power of culture that circumscribes the instrument’s potential in order to make it appealing to mass consumers..."
Putting Global Governance in Its Place  
Dani Rodrik | The World Bank Research Observer

"The case for global governance in [some] policies... is very weak, and possibly outweighed by the risk that global oversight or regulation would backfire. While these policy domains are certainly rife with failures, such failures arise not from weaknesses of global governance, but from failures of national governance and cannot be fixed through international agreements or multilateral cooperation..."

Dissecting the Language of Elitism: The 'Joyful' Violence of Premium
Crispin Thurlow | Language in Society

"Aligned with renewed commitments to class critique in sociolinguistics...[this article] demonstrates how the word premium is attached to any number of goods/services, coaxing people into a sense of distinction and superior status. These language games occur most vividly in my second analytic site-Premium Economy-where status is fabricated as tangibly but not too obviously distinct from Economy while preserving the prestige of Business..."

'Immigrationization' of Welfare Politics? Anti-Immigration and Welfare Attitudes in Context
Brian Burgoon, Matthijs Rooduijn | West European Politics

"Several studies have shown that a person’s attitude towards immigration affects his or her support for welfare redistribution...[This study finds] that anti-immigration attitudes yield lower support for redistribution mainly when a respondent’s country faces more immigration, when welfare-state protections are generous, and when migrants actually rely more than natives on the welfare state."

Insect Declines in the Anthropocene
David L. Wagner | Annual Review of Entomology

"...In addition to widely recognized threats to insect biodiversity, e.g., habitat destruction, agricultural intensification (including pesticide use), climate change, and invasive species, this assessment highlights a few less commonly considered factors such as atmospheric nitrification from the burning of fossil fuels and the effects of droughts and changing precipitation patterns."

Sanctuary, Armory, and Prison: Switzerland and the Role of Swiss Anarchists As Intermediaries in the European Terrorist Network in the 1970s
Mikuláš Pešta | Central European History

"This article focuses on how Switzerland played a dual role in providing a sanctuary for retired left-wing radicals while serving as an armament source for the distribution of weapons and explosives throughout Europe in the 1970s. A significant part of the article delves into the case of the AKO (Anarchistische Kampforganisation), a Swiss anarchist group that supplied several European terrorist groups with weapons..."