What is a guest editorial?

A guest editorial provides an opportunity for an author to reflect on a recent event, methodological innovation, or gap in the literature. Many successful editorials do all three, culminating in proposing an agenda for the discipline.

In understanding what a guest editorial is, it may be useful to consider what an editorial is not:

- A solely journalistic account of a recent political event. A reflection on a recent event can provide an excellent opener for an editorial, and in some instances this focus can be sustained throughout the editorial. However, an editorial should engage the academic literature and suggest further analytical techniques or perspectives that draw upon and contribute to the broader academic literature.

- A miniature research article. Probably some successful editorials began their lives as research articles. However, the two media are fundamentally different. Some topics are simply too complicated, or too dependent on in-depth analysis of a case-study, to stand as a 2000-word editorial.

- A political rant. Of course editorialists are expected to have opinions, but this is an academic publication and they also are expected to be scholars. Editorials do not go through the regular Political Geography double-blind peer-review process, and thus they need not have the academic rigor of a research article (i.e. the literature review need not be complete and there is no need to consider all perspectives not adopted). However, directly competing interpretations should be considered and, if appropriate, dismissed respectfully.

Like all submissions to Political Geography, guest editorials should be submitted via the Elsevier Electronic Submissions website [http://ees.elsevier.com/jpgq].