

Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique

2015 End-of-year Report
April 7, 2016

Prepared by Graham White (English Co-editor)

This is the fourth annual report on the *Journal/Revue* on behalf of the English editorial team at Ryerson University and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). Our operation is funded by generous contributions from the Association, from Ryerson University, from UTM and from the University of Toronto's Graduate Department of Political Science. The *Journal/Revue* is also supported by a subvention from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The team – Graham White (UTM), Co-editor; Carolyn Johns (Ryerson), Assistant Editor; Peter Loewen (UTM), Assistant Editor; and Bryan Evans (Ryerson), Book Review Editor – has been greatly assisted by the strong work of our Editorial Assistants, Maxime Héroux-Legault at UTM and Thomas McDowell at Ryerson and by the highly professional and supportive staff at Cambridge University Press (CUP).

This report covers the English-language component of the *Journal/Revue*. Information on the French-language side may be found in the report of French Co-editor, Jean-François Godbout.

The English editorial team is entering the final year of its mandate. A call for expressions of interest in editing the *Journal* has been widely circulated and a committee established to manage the search for a new English editorial team. The new team should be in place by July 2017.

We are very enthused about two forthcoming special issues, which will be the first in the history of the *Journal/Revue*. A team of guest editors, led by Fiona MacDonald (Fraser Valley) and Alexandra Dobrowolsky (St Mary's), is working on a special issue on "Finding Feminisms". A second special issue, planned for March 2017, will mark the 50th anniversary of the *Journal/Revue*. In both instances, calls for papers were widely circulated and generated substantial numbers of high quality proposals. As well, a symposium (which entails a number of thematically connected papers but does not constitute a full issue) is in the works on the scholarship of the late Richard Simeon.

As noted in previous reports, SSHRC continues to move towards implementation of open access principles for academic research. Along with CIHR and NSERC, SSHRC now requires holders of grants who publish their research in peer-reviewed journals to publish only in those with open access provisions. As well, although not as yet a formal requirement, it is likely that future SSHRC subventions will be restricted to journals with open access provisions. We believe that the contract with CUP negotiated last year meets SSHRC's open access requirements.

As in years past, a significant challenge in 2015 was reviewer fatigue, in terms of assessing manuscripts, although completion rates by reviewers was up substantially. In 2015, 59 per cent (251 of 425) of the invitations to review manuscripts resulted in completed reviews whereas in 2014 just under half the invitations produced reviews. Still, in more than a few instances it took several weeks before three reviewers had agreed to assess a manuscript; this necessarily added to the time to first decision. Once a reviewer agreed to assess a manuscript, the mean time taken to complete a review was 40 days, up somewhat from 38 days in 2014, and 31 days in 2013. This figure disguises a wide variation: nearly a third (32 per cent) of reviews completed in 2015 took over 45 days, with 20 per cent taking more than 60 days. Since we normally solicit three reviews on each manuscript, a single overdue assessment can significantly add to the time required to reach a decision.

At the same time, we continue to be impressed and grateful for the time and insight that reviewers contribute. The typical manuscript review is extensive, thoughtful and helpful to authors, even in cases where the ultimate editorial decision is negative.

Overall, the data contained in this report present a picture of continuity with previous years' operations. Various indicators have changed marginally since last year, but no dramatic or significant changes are evident. Tables 1 to 5 present data on authors, reviewers and submissions.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2015 the English editorial team received a total of 87 new manuscripts including Professor Jill Vickers' Presidential Address; this represents a decrease from 2014 (108 submissions). This decline does not, however, appear to indicate anything more than the vagaries of manuscript submission: in the first three months of 2016, we received 37 submissions, which would project to nearly 150 for the full year. (The 37 do not include any of the expected submissions for the "Finding Feminisms" and the Fiftieth Anniversary special issues.) In the four issues of Volume 48 (2015), 31 articles were published in English, compared with 25 in Volume 47 (2014).

The mean number of days from submission to first decision was 88 days, up from 76 days in 2014.

Table 1, which shows the geographic source of manuscripts, demonstrates that the *Journal/Revue* continues to benefit from strong international attention, with nearly a quarter of all submissions coming from outside Canada.

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the articles published in 2015 by the subfields used by the Association at the annual conference. Categorization of articles is somewhat arbitrary; for example, several of the articles included under "Law and Public Policy" and of those categorized as "Political Behaviour/Sociology" might have been considered as "Canadian Politics" since the cases and data they examined were largely or entirely Canadian.

Table 2 also shows the distribution of submissions in 2015. It is important to recognize that, given the time it takes to assess and process manuscripts, the two columns of the table are not directly comparable. By way of illustration, it is not correct to interpret the table as indicating that four of the ten 2015 submissions in Canadian politics were published; some of the articles published in 2015 had been submitted in 2014 and some of the 2015 submissions will be published in 2016.

The distribution of the 85 first decisions rendered in 2015 is presented in Table 3. Data on the disposition of the 87 submissions received in 2015 are presented in Table 4. (Note that first decisions would include some manuscripts submitted in 2014, so that the cohorts examined in these tables are substantially different.) Of the 59 2015 submissions on which final decisions were rendered, 13 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 22 per cent; however, since final decisions had yet to be made on another 28 papers which had been given an initial 'R&R', a substantial proportion of which are likely to be accepted, the actual acceptance rate will be, as it has been in recent years, in the range of 25 to 30 per cent.

Table 5 presents data on gender for articles published, manuscripts submitted, and reviewers invited and completed. We are pleased that the 2015 data continue to demonstrate improvement in gender balance: thirty-five per cent of first authors of 2015 articles were women, up from 25 per cent in 2014 and 18 per cent in 2013. Women submitted 29 per cent of the new manuscripts in 2015, as compared with 27 per cent in 2014. The percentage of invitations to review manuscripts that went to women was somewhat higher than it had been in 2014, 29 per cent as compared with 24 per cent in 2014. Completion rates for men and women were virtually identical: 59.1 per cent and 58.7 per cent.

Book Review Editor's Report

Tables 6 to 8 present data on book reviews published in 2015.

The English reviews are in a very good position at the end of 2015. In total thirty-five reviews were published; however, as the profile of the reviews demonstrates, the regional representation of published reviews requires a better balance. On a more positive note, the gender balance has been improving. In 2015, 15 of the 35 reviews published were authored by female reviewers, or 42.8 per cent. With respect to that, we wish to thank everyone on the EAB who responded to our call to assist in reaching out to female graduate students and professors to undertake reviews for CJPS. Our major challenges going forward, in addition to the regional representation noted, is that we have 39 reviews awaiting publication and 12 more are in progress. That is a good problem to have but some reviewers are waiting a year and more to see their review appear. Consequently, we are not actively recruiting additional reviews at this time. We expect that we will leave to the next review team at least 16 completed reviews, likely more, to allow them time to implement their own recruitment strategy.

Table 1 / Tableau 1
Geographical Location of Authors and Assessors /
Répartition géographique des auteurs et des évaluateurs
New Manuscripts / Nouveaux manuscrits*
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015/1^{er} janvier 2015 au 31 décembre 2015

	Published / Publiés Authors/Auteurs	Submitted / Soumis Authors/Auteurs	Assessors Requested/ Évaluateurs à qui on a demandé
British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	4	7	37
Prairies	3	10	41
Ontario	17	36	158
Québec	1	8	34
Atlantic/Atlantique	2	6	22
Territoires / Territoires	0	0	0
USA / É.-U.	1	5	87
Europe	1	4	34
Other / Autre	2	11	12
TOTAL	31	87	425

*The numbers in the second and third columns refer to the geographic location of the first author of each new manuscript. / Les chiffres dans les deuxième et troisième colonnes réfèrent à la région géographique du premier auteur de chaque manuscrit.

Table 2 / Tableau 2
Manuscripts Published and Submitted by Field / Manuscrits publiés et soumis par domaine
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 / 1^{er} janvier 2015 au 31 décembre 2015

	Manuscripts Published / Manuscrits publiés	Submitted / Soumis
Canadian Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions canadiennes	4	10
Political Theory / Théorie politique	2	6
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	3	12
Comparative Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions comparées	2	13
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	2	9
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	5	14
Political Economy / Économie politique	0	1
Provincial and Territorial Politics Politique provinciale et territoriale	1	1
Public Administration / Administration publique	1	1
Law and Public Policy Droit et analyse de politiques	7	10
Women, Gender and Politics / Femmes, genre et politique	1	1
Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous People and Politics / Race, ethnicité ,peuples autochtones et politique	3	9
TOTAL	31	87

Table 3 / Tableau 3
First Decisions in 2015 / Décisions initiales en 2015

Total	85
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	17
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	38
Accepted by assessors / Acceptés par les évaluateurs	2
Revise and resubmit / À réviser et à resoumettre	28

Table 4 / Tableau 4
Disposition of New Manuscripts Submitted in 2015 / Décision au sujet des nouveaux manuscrits soumis en 2015

Manuscripts Submitted / Manuscrits soumis	87
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	18
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	41
Accepted / Acceptés	13
Withdrawn by authors / Retirés par des auteurs	0
Withdrawn by editors / Retirés par les directeurs	0
Under review (as of April 1, 2016) / En cours d'évaluation (au 1 ^{er} avril 2016)	7
Revised version not yet submitted (as of April 1, 2016) / Version révisée non encore soumise (au 1 ^{er} avril 2016)	8

Table 5 / Tableau 5
Gender Distribution of Authors and Assessors in 2015/
Répartition des auteurs et des évaluateurs selon les sexes 2015

	Authors / Auteurs		Assessors / Évaluateurs	
	Published / Publiés	Submitted / Soumis	Completed / Ayant terminé leur mandat	Invited / Invités
Female / Femme	11	25	74	126
Male / Homme	20	62	177	299
TOTAL	31	87	251	425

Table 6 / Tableau 6
2015 English Book Reviews - Fields / Recensions de livres en anglais en 2015 - Domaines

Canadian Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions canadiennes	2
Political Theory / Théorie politique	3
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	8
Comparative Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions comparées	1
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	3
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	3
Political Economy / Économie politique	3
Provincial and Territorial Politics / Politique provinciale et territoriale	0
Public Administration / Administration publique	1
Law and Public Policy / Droit et analyse de politiques	9
Women, Gender and Politics / Femmes, genre et politique	1
Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous Peoples and Politics / Race, ethnicité, peuples autochtones et politique	1
Total	35

Table 7 / Tableau 7
Geographical Distribution of Book Reviewers, 2015/Répartition géographique des critiques, 2015

British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	4
Prairies	3
Ontario	19
Québec	4
Atlantic/Atlantique	1
Territories / Territoires	1
USA / É.-U.	0
Europe	1
Other / Autre	2
TOTAL	35

Table 8 / Tableau 8
Gender Distribution of Book Reviewers 2015 / Répartition des critiques selon les sexes, 2015

Male / Homme	20
Female / Femme	15
TOTAL	35