

Editorial

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With this first issue of 2012, we are entering the third year of publication of *Social Psychological and Personality Science (SPSS)*. Needless to say, we now have a much better feel of whether or not this outlet is going to be a major player in the field. The answer is clearly positive: The *SPSS* is definitely joining the handful of journals in which people aspire to publish their very best work. By all standards, the *SPSS* is an unprecedented success in the history of scientific publications.

Mind you, things were not that obvious 3 years ago when the consortium decided to go ahead with this project. To be sure, the *Association for Research in Personality*, the *European Association of Social Psychology*, the *Society of Experimental Social Psychology*, and the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology* all had solid experience with scientific publications and the joint venture was appealing to a great many observers. Of course, my associate editors and I could all count on sound knowledge of what editorial duties entailed and we had an ambitious set of goals for our editorial term. But there is a difference between dream and reality.

Thanks to the efforts of a wonderful group of people, namely the editorial assistants from SAGE, the representatives of the consortium but also, and most importantly, the dozens of members of the editorial board, the hundreds of ad hoc reviewers, and the thousands of readers, this journal has established itself as a must in any list of publications of contemporary social and personality psychologists.

As of November 1, the journal office had received a stunning 1,375 new submissions and 398 revisions. This means that since the journal website was launched in May 2009, we received close to 46 original manuscripts and more than 13 revisions each and every month. In short, two manuscripts land on my desk every single day. To be entirely correct, though, there has been a steady increase over the 30-month period since the launch of the journal. In all likelihood, these numbers will keep on growing.

Of these 1,375 submissions, an impressive total of 1,302 manuscripts had already met with at least one decision. In total, 166 (13%) manuscripts were desk-rejected, 858 (66%) manuscripts were rejected, almost all of them after the first round of reviews, and some 208 (16%) manuscripts were eventually accepted for publication. As to the remaining 5% manuscripts, they met with at least one (major or minor) revise and resubmit and a fair proportion of these papers should reach the journal in the future after having been rewritten. Clearly, these numbers are not only imposing in absolute terms. They also explain why the journal was able to publish four issues in its first year of

operation and to jump to six issues as soon as its second volume. We should stick to six issues during 2012!

On a related note, another important achievement of the *SPSS* has been to keep the time between submission and decision very short. On average, any given submission, that is, an original article or a revised version, has been sanctioned after 38 days!! If one excludes both the accepted articles and those that were triaged, the average decision time for the remaining articles was approximately 42 days. This means that 6 weeks after an article was submitted, news was sent to the author(s) by the handling editor. This is a very fast turnover indeed.

So, what are the goals now? Well, quite modestly, the current editorial team is going to continue the good work. As a journal that has the ambition to address researchers from all over the planet, we are very proud that 40% of the original submissions originate from outside the United States. Still, we will continue to invest time and effort in order to ensure that the *SPSS* proves attractive to a worldwide scientific community. Also, it is a clear ambition of the *SPSS* to try and meet the requirements for the calculation of the well-known “impact” statistics. Although for obvious reasons this decision ultimately is not in the hands of the journal or its publisher, every effort is being made so that the authors can count as soon as possible on some objective information regarding the international standing of the *SPSS*. On top of the fact that every potential author should be able to get a better idea of the visibility of a *SPSS* publication, the journal has also been disseminating the research that it publishes via a series of additional channels. For all this, we can count on the skills and wisdom of Chris Crandall as our public communications director. When Chris thinks that some findings are newsworthy, he gets in touch with the author(s) and sees it that the message reaches beyond our “standard” readership by spreading it via the wider media.

Let me end this editorial note by wholeheartedly thanking associate editor Tom Postmes for his wonderful contribution since the beginning of the journal. From July 2011 on, Tom has been looking forward to new editorial duties and I really wish him the very best. At the same time that Tom was stepping down, two new associate editors joined the team so as to be able to handle the growing number of submissions. Embodying the international vocation of the *SPSS*, one of them, Michael Platow, is based in Australia and the other, Catrin Finkenauer is active in Western Europe. As to the other associate editors, Olivier Corneille, Michele Gelfand, Sam Gosling, Kerry Kawakami, Christoph Klauer, Paula Niedenthal, and Carolin

Showers, they will continue to serve with the same efficiency and enthusiasm until June 2012, which is the official end of our editorial term. Let me thank them here most sincerely for their competence and dedication. After all, it is this mix of professionalism and passion at all levels of the editorial process that makes the journal a must-read for all members of the *ARP*, the *EASP*, the *SESP*, and the *SPSP*, and for a great many more!!!

Vincent Yzerbyt, *Editor*