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Editorial

Christian Suter*, Nora Linder*, and Felix Bühlmann**

This Editorial gives an overview of the most important events and decisions related to the Swiss Journal of Sociology (SJS), and summarizes the activities of its editorial team for the calendar year 2015.¹ As in the last few years, the Editorial will also appear on the website of the journal together with some additional information.

With the current issue, the Editor's office of the Swiss Journal of Sociology changes from the Sociological Institute of the University of Neuchâtel to the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne. In spring 2015, the executive committee of the Swiss Sociological Association and the editorial committee of the Swiss Journal of Sociology nominated the new editor-in-chief of the journal. Their choice fell on Felix Bühlmann, Assistant Professor of sociology at the University of Lausanne. As incoming editor-in-chief Felix Bühlmann took over the editorial direction of the journal on January 1st 2016. We would like here to wish plenty of success to the new editorial team. During the calendar year 2016, the outgoing editorial team of Neuchâtel and the incoming editorial team of Lausanne will collaborate in order for this transfer to be conducted optimally. In this transition phase, from the beginning of this year new manuscripts are managed by the editorial team of Lausanne, while the current ongoing production (manuscripts accepted in 2015) is treated by the editorial team of Neuchâtel. The editorial office of Neuchâtel will transmit progressively all the activities of the journal to the new team. We invite people wishing to submit a manuscript to the journal to send it to the office of Lausanne at the address socio.journal@unil.ch.

Based on the work of the editorial team in Neuchâtel, the new editor-in-chief plans to further increase the visibility and the impact of the journal. In close collaboration with the editorial committee, the Swiss Sociological Association and Seismo he currently probes a series of options in order to make the articles of the SJS more visible, more easily accessible and downloadable on a professional internet publishing platform. In the mid-term, this will also lead to a more consistent open-access publishing strategy, such as it is increasingly required by the Swiss funding agencies (such as the Swiss National Science Foundation or the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences). An important objective of this strategy is the inclusion of the SJS in the Social Science Citation index in the next few years.

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1 During 2015 the editorial team was composed of Christian Suter, serving as editor-in-chief, and Nora Linder as submission manager and editorial assistant.

Special issue: Last year, the Swiss Journal of Sociology published two special issues. The first special issue dealt with the topic of “Economic Socialization and Financial Practices of Young People” (vol. 41, issue 2), the second special issue dealt with the topic of “Transformations of Retirement Policies” (vol. 41, issue 3). For 2016, the special issue will focus on “The new second generation” (vol. 42, issue 2).

We have published for the first time a call for proposals for the SJS special issue 2017. This operation proved a big success because we received seven high-quality propositions. On account of the quality and number of the received propositions, it has been decided to publish two special issues in 2017. These two special issues will address the themes of “Art, Work and Deregulation” (vol. 43, issue 2) and “Educational Expansion, Partnership, and the Family” (vol. 43, issue 3). In this connection, we would like to thank all guest editors for their valuable contributions and commitment to the journal. Given the success of the call for proposals for the special issue of the last year, we will diffuse in March 2016 a call for the topic of the 2018 issue and invite all the interested persons to submit their propositions. Deadline for proposal submission is April 15th, 2016.

Articles published and manuscript submissions: During the calendar year 2015 the Swiss Journal of Sociology published 21 articles, one review article and eight book reviews in the three issues (March, July, and November) – all three were published on time. In 2015, 47 manuscripts were submitted to the journal. A detailed overview of the published articles and manuscripts submitted can be found in Table 1. It should be noted that success rates cannot be calculated from these numbers, as the data bases of published and submitted manuscripts are not identical.

Publications: A clear majority of the articles published in the year 2015, namely 18 out of 22, were empirical, half of them (nine articles) using qualitative methods and the other half using quantitative (eight articles) or mixed (one article) methods of analysis. With regard to language, last year recorded an over-representation of French articles (fifteen French articles, three German articles and four English articles), which reflects the dominance of French articles published in the two special issues (vol. 41, issues 2 and 3), whereas, the three languages were evenly represented in the regular issue. A closer look at the issues published during the last five years reveals that the special issues tend to be more polarized according to language than the regular issues. The 2011 and 2012 special issues recorded an over-representation of English articles, while the 2013 special issue recorded a clear over-representation of German articles. Only in the 2014 special issue the three languages were evenly represented. This observation suggests that a reflection must be conducted in order to attain a more equitable representation of the three languages in the special issues.

Regarding the region of origin of the first author, thirteen contributions came from French-speaking Switzerland, three from German-speaking Switzerland, one from Italian-speaking Switzerland, one from France and four from various other countries. With regard to the gender of the first author, we see that equality was

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in the calendar year 2015

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	22	100	47	100
Methods				
Empirical – qualitative	9	41	19	40
Empirical – quantitative	8	36	19	40
Empirical – mixed	1	4	2	4
Theoretical	0	0	2	4
Essayistic	1	4	5	11
Methodological	0	0	0	0
Introductory & review articles	3	14	0	0
Language				
German	3	14	13	28
French	15	68	15	32
English	4	18	19	40
Region of origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	3	14	14	30
French-speaking Switzerland	13	59	17	36
Italian-speaking Switzerland	1	4	0	0
Germany	0	0	4	8
France	1	4	4	8
Other European countries	1	4	4	8
Non-European countries	3	14	4	8
Sex (first author)				
Female	13	59	20	43
Male	9	41	27	57

Note: Figures for “articles published” and “manuscripts submitted” cannot be compared directly as their data bases are not identical. “Articles published” have been submitted in 2013 and 2014, whereas “manuscripts submitted” have been submitted in 2015.

almost realized, with a slight dominance of published manuscript by a female first author (13 women compared to 9 men). A more detailed examination further reveals that 59% of the articles were written by mixed-gender teams.

Submissions: The largest portion of manuscript submissions was empirical quantitative (40%) and empirical qualitative (40%); 11% of submissions were essayistic, 4% were theoretical and 4% empirical articles with a combined qualitative-quantitative analytical design. With regard to language, we observe a dominance of English (40%), followed by French (32%) and German (28%). Two third of

the submissions came from Switzerland (36% French-speaking Switzerland, 30% German-speaking Switzerland), 8% from Germany, 8% from France and 16% from various other countries (Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, China, Italy, and Ivory Coast). As to the gender of the first author, last year's submissions were quite balanced with 57% of male and 43% female submissions.

Review process: During the review process, 157 experts were approached and 86 agreed to write one or more reviews. Altogether the editorial team requested 179 reviews, of which 98 were completed. These figures illustrate not only the considerable effort required to carry out the review procedures on the part of the editorial team, but also the great contribution made by the editorial committee and the reviewers contacted. We would like to take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to all those involved in this work. A list of the reviewers' names can be found on the journal's website.

Of the 47 manuscripts submitted, 38 were reviewed and a decision was taken during the calendar year. The number of reviews per manuscript varied in 2015 between two and four. The average duration of the review process (i. e., response time from submission to decision) was 3.9 months, which is slightly below our internal target of four months. 34% of the submitted (and reviewed) manuscripts were accepted, the majority, however, on condition that amendments be made; 47% of the reviewed manuscripts had to be refused (including submissions cancelled by the authors), and the remaining 18% were returned for extensive revision, after which the revised versions of these manuscripts were reviewed once more.

Financial support: Enhancing the journal's professional standing requires additional financial means. Our readers partly contributed to these resources via the journal's subscription fees. In addition, the sociological institutes of various universities in Switzerland were asked for financial support. The editorial team and the Swiss Sociological Association is tremendously grateful that six of the institutes approached gave such financial support in 2015 (the Sociological Institute of the University of Zurich, the Sociology Department of the University of Geneva, the Department of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel, the Sociology Seminar of the University of Basel, the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Fribourg, and the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lausanne); moreover several of these institutes have already agreed to support the journal again in 2016. These funds allow the editorial teams to meet the extra costs generated by the change of the Editor's office from Neuchâtel to Lausanne and to continue their efforts to improve the journal's quality and professional standing.

Neuchâtel and Lausanne, January 2016