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Editorial

Christian Suter* and Pascale Gazareth*

This Editorial summarizes the activities of the Swiss Journal of Sociology and its editorial team for the previous calendar year. The year 2012 was the second full year in office for the current editorial team.¹ The two most important events in the previous calendar year were our application for inclusion of the Swiss Journal of Sociology in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the creation of the new website.

SSCI: The editorial team submitted the application file in July, together with the publication of issue 2-2012; and we are expecting a response from the Social Sciences Citation Index by the end of 2013. Within the framework of preparing for the indexing, the editorial team closely collaborated with Seismo Press in order to optimize our procedures for guaranteeing the punctual publication of the journal, one of the key evaluation criteria of the SSCI. We are happy to report that, since the application, all issues have been published on time.

Website: The journal's website has been fully integrated into the new website of the Swiss Sociological Association (www.sgs-sss.ch). The new journal website not only keeps all the important functionalities of the previous one (notably the archive search function for finding authors, titles, volumes or years; the list of all articles; access to the abstracts of all issues from vol. 26-2000 onwards) but it also includes open access to all issues (older than one year) published since 1991. The editorial team will continue its efforts to make all previous volumes of the journal electronically accessible and to improve open access.

Special issue: Last year's special issue dealt with the topic of social stratification and the persistence of social inequalities. The eight articles (and an introduction) contribute to filling an important gap in Swiss stratification research, namely the poor treatment of the temporal dynamics of social inequalities. The special issue to be published in July 2013 on "Change and Reforms in Educational Systems and Organizations" (vol. 39, issue 2) will contain eleven articles. Finally, the special issue planned for 2014 will address the theme of "Institutional doing gender: how politics impacts on gender (in-)equality". We would like to thank all guest editors for their valuable contribution and commitment to the journal.

During the calendar year 2012 the Swiss Journal of Sociology published 21 articles and nine book reviews in the three issues (March, July, November). In the

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1 The 2012 editorial team is composed of Christian Suter serving as editor-in-chief, Pascale Gazareth as submission manager and Nora Linder as editorial assistant.

same time frame, 52 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.

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in the calendar year 2012

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	21	100	52	100
Methods				
Empirical - qualitative	6	29	19	37
Empirical - quantitative	12	57	13	25
Empirical – mixed	1	5	1	2
Theoretical	1	5	13	25
Methodological	0	0	6	12
Introductory and review articles	1	5		
Language				
German	6	29	24	46
French	7	33	16	31
English	8	38	12	23
Region of origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	5	24	10	19
French-speaking Switzerland	11	52	11	21
Germany	1	5	14	27
France	1	5	7	13
Other countries	3	14	10	19
Sex (first author)				
Female	6	29	13	25
Male	15	71	39	75

Publications: A clear majority of the articles published in the year 2012, namely 19 out of 21, were empirical; two thirds of them (12 articles) using quantitative methods and one third (six articles) qualitative methods of analysis. This strong representation of quantitative contributions is due to the special issue, which included solely quantitative papers. Most articles were written in English (eight); seven were published in German and six in French. Regarding language region of

origin, five contributions came from German-speaking Switzerland, eleven from French-speaking Switzerland and five from other countries. With regard to the gender of first authors, there is still a dominance of men in the published articles (15 men compared to six women). A more detailed examination reveals that most articles, namely nine, were written by gender-mixed teams; thus, seven of the 15 articles with a male first author were co-authored by one or several women (and two of the six articles with a female first author were co-authored by a man). Thus the gender differences seem to be associated with the fact that, firstly, female authors appear more often as co-authors than men and, secondly, that men submit more manuscripts than women.

Submissions: The largest portion of manuscript submissions was empirical qualitative (37%), followed by empirical quantitative (25%), and theoretical (25%); 12% were methodological contributions and the remaining 2% empirical articles with a combined qualitative-quantitative analytical design. With regard to language nearly half of the submissions were in German (46%), 31% in French and 23% in English. Regarding (language) region of origin, the distribution is relatively balanced with 19% from German-speaking Switzerland, 21% from French-speaking Switzerland, 27% from Germany, 13% from France, and 19% from various other countries (Canada, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Tanzania, Tunisia and the United Kingdom). As to the gender of first authors, there is a clear dominance of male submissions (75%). However, as mentioned above, a substantial proportion of male submissions are co-authored papers with at least one female co-author. In fact, a more detailed analysis demonstrates that gender-mixed submissions had the highest and (only) male submissions the lowest acceptance rate in 2012.

During the review process, 107 experts were approached, and 78 wrote reviews. Altogether the editorial team requested 134 reviews, 100 of which 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 should like to take this opportunity to thank very much all those involved in this work. A list of the reviewers' names can be found on the journal's website.

Of the 52 manuscripts submitted, 42 were reviewed during the calendar year and a decision taken. The number of reviews per manuscript varied in 2012 between two and four. In 55% of the reviewed manuscripts, our internal guideline of three reviews was achieved. The average duration of reviewing (i. e., mean response time from submission to decision) was 3.1 months, which is below the internal guideline of four months. In about 80% of our decisions the response time was below four months. About 40% of the submitted (and reviewed) manuscripts were accepted, the majority, however, on condition that amendments were made. One third of the reviewed manuscripts had to be refused, 10% were withdrawn by the author,

and the remaining 17% were returned for extensive revision, whereby the revised versions of these manuscripts were reviewed once more.

In order to support the editorial team in its efforts to enhance the journal's professional standing, the Swiss Sociological Association increased its annual subscription by about CHF 20.– in 2012 and the journal's subscription fees have been similarly adapted. Moreover, the Swiss Sociological Association and the editorial team of the journal have approached the sociological institutes of various universities in Switzerland to request additional financial support. The editorial team is exceptionally grateful that six of the institutes approached gave such financial support in 2012 (Sociology Department of the University of Geneva, Sociological Institute of the University of Zurich, Sociology Seminar of the University of Basel, Department of Social Sciences of the University of Fribourg, Department of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel, Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lausanne); moreover several of these institutes already agreed to support the journal also in 2013. These funds allowed the editorial team to continue its efforts to realize the planned professionalization and to improve the journal's quality and professional standing.