



Canadian Journal of Political Science

2014 End-of-year Report

April 26, 2014

Prepared by Graham White (English Co-editor)

This is the third 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, Jack Lucas at UTM and Thomas McDowell at Ryerson and by the highly professional and supportive staff at Cambridge University Press (CUP). Jack is stepping down, having accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Calgary; our thanks to him for his extraordinary service. Taking over as Editorial Assistant at UTM will be Maxime Héroux-Legault.

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.

Beyond day-to-day operations, detailed below, 2014 saw two major developments for the *Journal/Revue*. First, CPSA and CUP renewed the *Journal/Revue*'s publication contract, with only minor modifications from the previous contract.

Second we applied for and were awarded a renewal of SSHRC's subvention for academic journals, amounting to \$30,000 a year for three years. The English Co-editor took the lead in this process, drawing on the support of Silvina Danesi and Michelle Hopkins at CPSA.

As noted in last year's report, SSHRC continues to move towards implementation of open access principles for academic research. Along with CIHR and NSERC, SSHRC recently announced that beginning with grants awarded this May, holders of SSHRC grants who publish their research in peer-reviewed journals will be required 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 new contract with CUP will meet these requirements.

As in years past, the biggest challenge in 2014 was reviewer fatigue, in terms of assessing manuscripts. In 2014, fewer than half (244 of 511) of the invitations to review manuscripts resulted in completed reviews; this marked a slight decline in acceptance of review invitations from 2013, when just over half the invitations produced reviews. Accordingly, 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 38 days, up somewhat from 31 days in 2013, but the same as in 2012. This figure disguises a wide variation: more than a third (34 per cent) of reviews completed in 2014 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, 2014 the English editorial team received a total of 108 new manuscripts including Professor Alain Noël's Presidential Address; this represents a marginal increase from 2013 (104 submissions). In the four issues of Volume 46 (2014), 25 articles were published in English, compared with 28 in Volume 45.

The mean number of days from submission to first decision was 76 days, up marginally from 70 days in 2013.

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

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the articles published in 2014 by the subfields used by the Association at the annual conference. Categorization of articles is somewhat arbitrary; for example, both of the articles included under "Law and Public Policy" and several 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 2014. It is important to recognize that the two columns of the table are not directly comparable since a significant proportion of the 2014 submissions that were accepted will not be published until 2015. By way of illustration, while no articles were published in the "Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous People and Politics" category in 2014, four of the eight 2014 submissions in this subfield will be published in 2015.

The distribution of the 102 first decisions rendered in 2014 is presented in Table 3. Data on the final disposition of the 108 submissions received in 2014 are presented in Table 4. (Note that first decisions would include some manuscripts submitted in 2013, so that the cohorts examined in these tables are not identical.) Of the 89 submissions from 2014 on which final decisions were rendered, 20 were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 22.4 per cent; however, another 9 papers which had been given an initial 'R&R' decision had yet to be resubmitted and since a substantial proportion of these are likely to be accepted, the actual acceptance rate will be, as it was in 2013, 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. Twenty-five per cent of first authors of 2014 articles were women, up from 18 per cent in 2013. Women submitted 27 per cent of the new manuscripts in 2014, as compared with 28 per cent in 2013. The percentage of invitations to review manuscripts that went to women was down slightly from the previous year: 24 per cent in 2014 as compared with 28 per cent in 2013.

Book Review Editor's Report

Tables 6 to 8 present data on book reviews published in 2014.

English reviews are in a very good position but with some challenges. Thirty-two reviews were published in 2014; however, as the profile of the reviews demonstrates, the regional and gender representation of published reviews requires a better balance. The number of reviews submitted by female reviewers modestly improved over 2014 from one-third to 40 percent. In part this reflects our practice of giving priority to reviews authored by women. However, we simply need more female reviewers. Toward this end I have sent a request to the Women's Caucus of CPSA to consider submitting reviews and to encourage female graduate students to do so as well.

With respect to the regional imbalance, I will be asking CPSA to send a notice out later in the year in an effort to recruit reviewers located in provinces other than Ontario.

Those shortcomings acknowledged, we do have 36 reviews in the queue which takes us through to July 2016. That is both a fine position to be in and a difficult one to manage. To mitigate the frustration of reviewers and authors I will not initiate review recruitment efforts until late in 2015 save that for female reviewers. In addition we will submit 9 reviews per edition of the journal rather than the usual 8.

Table 1 / Tableau 1
Geographical Location of Authors and Assessors /
Répartition géographique des auteurs et des évaluateurs
New Manuscripts / Nouveaux manuscrits*
January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014/1^{er} janvier 2014 au 31 décembre 2014

	Published / Publiés Authors/Auteurs	Submitted / Soumis Authors/Auteurs	Assessors Requested/ Évaluateurs à qui on a demandé
British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	2	9	35
Prairies	1	9	50
Ontario	12	34	217
Québec	3	18	58
Atlantic/Atlantique	0	2	8
Territoires / Territoires	0	0	0
USA / É.-U.	2	17	84
Europe	3	4	49
Other / Autre	2	15	10
TOTAL	25	108	511

*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 –December 31, 2014 / 1^{er} janvier 2014 au 31 décembre 2014

	Manuscripts Published / Manuscrits publiés	Submitted / Soumis
Canadian Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions canadiennes	6	17
Political Theory / Théorie politique	2	13
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	0	14
Comparative Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions comparées	4	16
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	1	1
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	5	17
Political Economy / Économie politique	2	2
Provincial and Territorial Politics Politique provinciale et territoriale	2	2
Public Administration / Administration publique	1	2
Law and Public Policy Droit et analyse de politiques	2	14
Women, Gender and Politics / Femmes, genre et politique	0	2
Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous People and Politics / Race, peuples autochtones et politique	0	8
TOTAL	25	108

Table 3 / Tableau 3
First Decisions in 2014 / Décisions initiales en 2014

Total	102
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	19
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	46
Accepted by assessors / Acceptés par les évaluateurs	2
Revise and resubmit / À réviser et à resoumettre	35

Table 4 / Tableau 4
Final Disposition of New Manuscripts Submitted in 2014 / Décision finale au sujet des nouveaux manuscrits soumis en 2014

Manuscripts Submitted / Manuscrits soumis	108
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	19
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	50
Accepted / Acceptés	20
Withdrawn by authors / Retirés par des auteurs	0
Withdrawn by editors / Retirés par les directeurs	0
Under review (as of April 6, 2015) / En cours d'évaluation (au 6 avril 2015)	9
Revised version not yet submitted (as of April 6, 2015)	9

Table 5 / Tableau 5
Gender Distribution of Authors and Assessors in 2014/
Répartition des auteurs et des évaluateurs selon les sexes 2014

	Authors / Auteurs		Assessors / Évaluateurs	
	Published / Publiés	Submitted / Soumis	Completed / Ayant terminé leur mandat	Invited / Invités
Female / Femme	5	29	57	146
Male / Homme	20	79	187	365
TOTAL	25	108	244	511

Table 6 / Tableau 6
2014 English Book Reviews - Fields / Recensions de livres en anglais en 2014 - Domaines

Canadian Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions canadiennes	3
Political Theory / Théorie politique	2
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	13
Comparative Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions comparées	2
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	0
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	1
Political Economy / Économie politique	1
Provincial and Territorial Politics / Politique provinciale et territoriale	0
Public Administration / Administration publique	1
Law and Public Policy / Droit et analyse de politiques	4
Women, Gender and Politics / Femmes, genre et politique	2
Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous Peoples and Politics / Race, peuples autochtones et politique	4
Total	32

Table 7 / Tableau 7
Geographical Distribution of Book Reviewers, 2014/Répartition géographique des critiques, 2014

British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	1
Prairies	3
Ontario	17
Québec	1
Atlantic/Atlantique	4
USA / É.-U.	2
Europe	2
Other / Autre	2
TOTAL	32

Table 8 / Tableau 8
Gender Distribution of Book Reviewers 2014 / Répartition des critiques selon les sexes, 2014

Male / Homme	19
Female / Femme	13
TOTAL	32