



## **NCA Editor's Information Report**

To: NCA Legislative Assembly

From: Robin M. Boylorn, Ph.D.

Journal Title: *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*

This report reflects the following time period: **August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024**

### **MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION RATE:**

- (1) Number of new manuscripts received during this period: **243**
- (2) Number of revised manuscripts received during this period: **27**
- (3) Total number of manuscripts accepted for publication: **26**
- (4) Number of manuscripts returned for revision and resubmission: **31**
- (5) Number of manuscripts rejected: **190**
- (6) Acceptance rate: [(3) divided by (1+2)]: **10%**

### **EDITOR'S GOALS AND PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THOSE GOALS:**

My goal for my final issue (volume 21, anniversary issues) was to curate issues that included manuscripts that aligned with the goals of reflection and vision for the field that was reflected in the call. This was accomplished by using the first two issues of the volume to highlight voices from the inaugural issue (Robert Ivie, the first editor of the journal was the special guest editor of a two-part forum across those first two issues) and Henry Giroux, whose article from the first issue of the journal is the most cited article in the journal's history contributed a new essay reflecting on that work 20 years later. I also hosted upcoming scholars in the second forum who were looking forward to what might be next for critical/cultural studies.

I also wanted to complete my issues and release my editorial board by the end of the second quarter to allow the editor-elect to be the primary decision-maker and processor for all incoming manuscripts, which was accomplished.

### **STRENGTHS:**

In a context of anti-DEI initiatives across the country that is impacting many academic workplaces, one of the strengths of CC/CS is its continued commitment to engaging, inviting and publishing progressive topics and takes. Another strength is the rigorous peer review process, including a robust and active editorial board who share the burden of review across the year. CC/CS has a competitive review and publication process which makes the acceptance rate low and the prestige of acceptance high, which contributes to the quality of the scholarship and the reputation of the journal, after 20 years, as one of the top journals in our field.

**AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

The journal continues to receive manuscripts that are not eligible for review so there is a continued concern that a more rigorous process of pre-screening take place to ensure that manuscripts that are assigned to CC/CS are actually aligned with the journals aims and scope-- it may be time to revisit those descriptions to ensure a more streamlined process and clearer guidelines for those who are interested in submitting.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:**

DEI efforts with the journal have been consistent and there is a clear commitment to a diverse editorial board (and therefore reviewer pool, that has included third reviewers (who are early career scholars or advanced PhD students), senior scholars, and people with interdisciplinary interests and research. It has, however, remained a challenge to accommodate some of the diverse submissions because the background of reviewers don't always align with the diverse and international subject matter of submissions. Still, the topics and themes of published manuscripts represent a wide range of identity and political issues with some topics (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation) having more representation and coverage than others (ability, class, indigenous experience).