



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

**To:** NCA Legislative Assembly

**From:** Dr. Srividya Ramasubramanian, Newhouse Professor & Endowed Chair, Syracuse University & Editor-in-Chief of *Communication Monographs*

**Journal Title:** Communication Monographs

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

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

1. Number of new manuscripts received during this period: **212**
2. Number of revised manuscripts received during this period: **56**
3. Total number of manuscripts accepted for publication: **30**
4. Number of manuscripts returned for revision and resubmission: **55**
5. Number of manuscripts rejected: **175**
6. Acceptance rate: [(3) divided by (1+2)]: [(30) divided by (268)] = **11.2%**

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

- **Diversification of the Editorial Board, Reviewers, and Authors:** We have a significantly higher number of scholars from minoritized groups on our new editorial board (based on gender, race/ethnicity, national origin, and areas of expertise within the communication discipline). I have been intentional about including non-U.S. editorial board members as well as those from historically marginalized groups, such as Black and Latino/a/x scholars as well as those from areas such as rhetoric, cultural studies, queer studies, ethnic studies, feminist studies, and postcolonial studies. I have also included reviewers, editorial team members, and editorial board members with expertise in quantitative, qualitative, critical, computational, rhetorical, mixed methods, and community-based research methods.
- **Internationalization and Global Reach:** Much more international editorial board and increased submissions from countries outside the U.S.
- **Pathways to Editorship:** I have created a new structure for our editorial team, which includes more than a dozen Associate Editors (AEs) and three grads/postdoc as editorial assistants. All the AEs are from minoritized groups (based on race, gender, and immigrant status). Serving on the editorial team provides important mentorship and professional development opportunities that are often not easily available. We meet once or twice a semester to discuss our editorial vision, policies, and processes.

### **STRENGTHS:**

- **Increased citations:** Citations per document has increased from 2.4 in 2022 to 4.10 in 2023.
- **Faster Decisions:** Our team has brought down the number of days for decisions from 49 days in November 2022 to 24 days in July 2023. In 2024, the average number of days from submission to first decision was 10 days while the average number of days from submission to first post-review decision was 99. Additionally, the average number of days from article acceptance to online publication was 16. All these averages are considerably lower than the previous years.

- **More Feedback to Authors:** Our Associate Editors provide an additional layer of review and accountability to help increase our reviewer database, speed up the reviewing process, and hold reviewers, authors, and the editorial team to higher standards of excellence.
- **Increased Attention to Diversity & Internationalization:** Significantly more diversity in editorial team, editorial board, and types of submissions received as well as accepted.
- **Increased Social Media Presence:** Increased social media presence through a new Twitter account for the journal launched in February 2023. This effort has increased the overall visibility of our journal while also leading to higher Altmetric scores for our articles. Notably, we had 119,196 article downloads in 2023 and over 169,000 downloads in 2024.
- **Better Support for the Editorial Team:** As a team, we meet once a month or so to discuss our challenges, tips, and tricks. We have a shared Google Drive with a detailed tracking sheet, email templates, a tips & tricks sheet, as well as a detailed database of editorial board members with their areas of expertise. Having continuous communication with the AEs via email helps us troubleshoot problems faster and more efficiently.

#### **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

- **Rights of authors to AI use of materials:** We were taken by complete surprise by the lack of involvement of editors and NCA in the decision of T&F selling our authors' manuscripts for training AI models. As researchers and creatives, using our labor in this manner by Microsoft is unethical. It is not fully clear how our work is being used.
- **Global South/Non-Western Countries:** We would like for more scholars from non-U.S. contexts, especially from the Global South and non-Western countries.
- **Difficulty finding reviewers:** Many reviewers are very late or simply vanish after agreeing to review. Therefore, we have had to use 2 instead of 3 reviews in making many decisions.

#### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:**

- **Types of Scholarship:** Under my editorship, we have started prioritizing DEI within the scholarship that is being published in *Communication Monographs*. We have seen a clear increase in submissions and publications relating to DEI issues in the journal. For instance we moved from 2 in 2021 to 4 in 2022 to 7 in 2023 for aligning with SDG (UN's sustainable developmental goals).
- **Editorial Team:** As the first person of color to lead *Communication Monographs* as Editor-in-Chief and someone who is deeply committed to DEI, I have prioritized DEI in all the processes within the journal. In particular, our entire editorial team consisting of 9 AEs currently and 5 additional AEs who served last year has included scholars from minoritized groups – almost all are scholars of color, immigrants, and women.
- **Editorial Board:** I have been intentional in completely revamping the editorial board, making it more inclusive of scholars from marginalized groups (e.g., LGBTQ+, racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants, women, and from many non-U.S. countries). Currently, 35% of our editorial board members indicated countries outside of the U.S. as their countries of origin compared to 65% indicating the U.S. as their country of origin. Countries such as China, Brazil, India, the Philippines, Peru, Chile, and Columbia are among those represented in this international group. Additionally, 11.2% of editorial board members reside in countries other than the U.S., including Netherlands, India, Philippines, China, New Zealand, Germany, Korea, Singapore, and Canada. Notably, 62% of editorial board members self-identify as women/female, 35% as men/male, and 3% as non-binary. In terms of racial/ethnic diversity, 54% of the editorial board members self-identify as White, 24% as Asian, 13% as African American/Black, 9% as Hispanic/Latinx, 1% as Middle/Eastern/North African, and 4% indicated other racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- **Reviewers and Authors:** Our new editorial board and editorial team structures have meant that we are able to attract many more submissions from authors who are from minoritized groups. We are also able to reach out to a broader network of reviewers from these groups.