

COMMUNICATION AND RACE – TOWNS

MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION RATE:

- (1) Number of new manuscripts received during this period: 14
- (2) Number of revised manuscripts received during this period: 14
- (3) Total number of manuscripts accepted for publication: 12
- (4) Number of manuscripts returned for revision and resubmission: 14
- (5) Number of manuscripts rejected: 22
- (6) Acceptance rate ((3) divided by (1+2)): 43%

EDITOR'S GOALS AND PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THOSE GOALS: One of my main goals for the journal is to improve the quality of the submissions, which have been not as good as I have hoped so far. One way I hope to improve the quality is by more targeted submissions. For example, I plan to work on another special issue, one that may involve collaboration with my colleague, Paula Chakravartty. Paula and I will try to work out some ideas on the special issue soon, as we hope to meet to discuss what this type of collaboration will look like, but I believe it may be in relationship to the US presidential election.

STRENGTHS: This journal has already opened space for the publication of race-related topics in the field, situating the topic as important to study in its own right for communication studies scholars. It provides an ability to assist in the tenure process for junior faculty, which in turn solidifies the area and the future of the topic. In the process, the journal is in a great place to lead conversations on the topic of race in the field in general.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT: I hope to see an increase in the quality of submissions to the journal. In many ways, that's what I hope the special issue with Paula can help with. I hope to draw up some more excitement around the journal through the special issue, and that can also lead to improvement in the submissions.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION: As a journal with a focus on race, we are in a great space to be a leader in the topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have one of, if not the most, diverse editorial boards in the field's history. In addition, we have a highly diverse group of authors in the first two issues of the journal. Given the current trajectory of the journal, and its future, I can only assume that the journal will help to spread diversity, equity, and inclusion for the field well into the future.