



National  
Communication  
Association

## NCA Editor's Information Report

To: NCA Legislative Assembly

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Journal Title: Quarterly Journal of Speech

This report reflects the following time period: September 2023 to September 2024

### MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION RATE:

<b>Manuscript Acceptance and Rejection Rate:</b>	Total	Excluding forum articles	Excl forum and using Accept/Accept; complete production checklist decisions only
1. Number of new manuscripts received during this period	126	87	
2. Number of revised manuscripts received during this period	93		
3. Total number of manuscripts accepted for publication	42	24	
4. Number of manuscripts returned for revision and resubmission	82	54	
5. Number of manuscripts rejected	72	71	
6. Acceptance rate: [(3) divided by (1+2)]:			3 divided by (1+2) = 19%

Decisions are usually made within 8 weeks (60 days) after submission. The acceptance rate is about 19% as indicated in the table above.

From Taylor and Francis, excluding book reviews and forum articles:

<b>SUBMISSIONS &amp; EVALUATIONS</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Original Submissions Received	100
Revised Submissions Received	85
Total Submissions Received	185
<b>Original Submissions:</b>	
Accepted Manuscripts	7
Rejected Manuscripts	67
Revise & Resubmit Manuscripts	25
<b>Revised Manuscripts:</b>	
Accepted Manuscripts	26
Rejected Manuscripts	3
Revise & Resubmit Manuscripts	47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Total Accepted Manuscripts	33
Total Rejected Manuscripts	70
Total Revise & Resubmit Manuscripts	72
Total Decision Pending Manuscripts	10
<b>Acceptance Rate</b>	<b>18%</b>

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

The main goals have included over the editorial term:

- 1) Expand the kinds of authors who submit and reviewers who do work for the journal, especially in terms of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility.
- 2) Mentor early career scholars, particularly those who are working in IDEA spaces/topics.
- 3) Invite doctoral students to work with more senior reviewers to learn the review process as well as doctoral students to serve as editorial assistants.
- 4) Extend the scope of what counts as rhetoric beyond the traditional, especially public address, in areas such as environment, gender, sexuality, race, and culture.

We now move to wrap up the editorial term with two final forums slated for 2025. All other manuscripts have been processed and published with the exception of three manuscripts that are currently under review/revision.

### **STRENGTHS:**

We have worked extensively with every author whose paper has been accepted. That is, we have made comments, edits, and clarifications in each essay moving forward to production so that it appears in its best form, both in terms of the content and the quality of the writing.

We have done really excellent work to expand the scope of the meaning of rhetoric to

include some non-traditional analyses, including field methods, various theories, and especially attention to IDEA matters (see below).

### **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

The two main challenges I have faced are getting reviewers to respond in a timely way. Most reviewers have been excellent and completed reviews on time. But a handful of reviewers take months past the due date, holding up decisions, even with repeated reminders. This problem can result from Taylor and Francis email reminders that end up in reviewers' spam inboxes, but even emailing people directly has not necessarily resulted in more timely reviews by some reviewers.

The second challenge is related to the Taylor and Francis interface. Authors are often asked to submit their manuscripts over and over again because they missed one detail or did not know they needed to submit an anonymous version of their manuscript even though their manuscript had been accepted for publication. Guest editors and the book review editor have had such difficulty with the ScholarOne portal that I have taken up the work of handling all the guest editor work. The ScholarOne portal has slowed down the book review editor's processing of manuscripts as well.

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

1. Staff: Our staff has consisted of women of color from various backgrounds, theoretical perspectives, and traditions. Paulami Banerjee, Ashley McDonald, and Cynthia Marentes have served as editorial assistants. Toniesha Taylor is our book review editor. Each has brought excellent work and ideas to the journal.
2. Reviewers and editorial board: Not only have we worked to include diverse scholars as reviewers, but we also have expanded the editorial board to give credit for such reviewing practices, particularly adding a large number of diverse people from other countries, and various backgrounds/trainings related to IDEA.
3. Topics of submissions: The call for papers has generated interest from a lot of folks, and a wide range of topics have been taken up in the last year.
4. Special issues and forums: Our special issue planned for the last issue of the year focuses on Abolition and Rhetoric, with guest editors Omedi Ochieng and Amber Kelsie (University of Colorado). We also published forums on radical rhetorics at the end of the world, trans and queer rhetorics (edited by E Cram), and immigration rhetorics (edited by Lisa Flores). For the upcoming volume (2025), we will focus on two forums on Latine Imaginaries and Caste Matters.
5. Book reviews: Toniesha Taylor has pursued book reviews related to IDEA, including book review forums such as on Lisa Flores's book, *Deportable and Disposable* and Karma Chávez's book, *The Borders of AIDS*; both books won NCA's Diamond Book awards in the past two years.