

Editorial

Sophie Mützel, Judith Nyfeler, Luca Pattaroni, and Marc Perrenoud (incoming editorial team) and Felix Bühlmann (outgoing editor)

Last year was disruptive in many ways: the world faced the biggest pandemic since decades, family members and neighbors fell ill, some were hospitalized, others died, schools, universities, and other workplaces were closed, and economic hardship and uncertainties ensued. Many of us experienced not only new ways of working (for scholars, working from home is not a particularly new phenomenon, but reading, writing, and teaching while taking care of the family, home-schooling, and doing household chores all at the same time and in the same space continues to be newly challenging), but also our regular social interactions got disrupted, health care systems were overwhelmed, and we experienced new discussions on individual and societal freedom amidst high levels of uncertainties on what the future would hold.

The Swiss Journal of Sociology experienced a change at the end of 2020, when the model of a single editor-in-chief with a consulting editorial committee transitioned into a model of editors-in-chief, a collective of four. After four years, Felix Bühlmann will step down as editor in chief of the journal and pass the torch to a team of four editors, Sophie Mützel (University of Lucerne), Judith Nyfeler (University of St.Gallen), Luca Pattaroni (EPFL) and Marc Perrenoud (University of Lausanne). This change also means a kind of a disruption as the new team will not be easy to replace the outstanding work and vision of Felix Bühlmann, who as the editor-in-chief has so calmly and successfully led the journal for the past four years, since 2016. We sincerely thank Felix for his trust in us and his guidance during the transitional period. We also thank the executive committee of the Swiss Sociological Association for our nomination. We do not expect that it will be easy to navigate the journal as a group of four. Yet we, the new team, recognize that the organizational change and slight disruption it may entail, can bring about new opportunities to develop ideas, to share tasks, and to encourage new formats, from which the journal will benefit. We look forward to guiding the Swiss Journal of Sociology towards its future.

As the new team, we are motivated to highlight sociology as a discipline and field of research that has a lot of insights to contribute to the current, multiple societal crises we face. We are encountering powerful inequalities in health care infrastructures knowledge about basic health care principles, and also in access to vaccinations, the pandemic sheds light on the fabrics of social networks and how they affect viral diffusion; it also questions norms and forms of social encounters, of living

in social isolation, of working from home (or living at work?) during lockdowns, and it re-traditionalizes gender roles, re-nationalizes politics, and points to economic and societal vulnerabilities, to name only a few of many relevant aspects. To reflect upon and engage with the current state of the world, we welcome contributions which address such aspects. Moreover, we are also interested in contributions that sociologically explore institutions and settings beyond the crisis, such as, what have cultural institutions learned, how may alternative forms of economies change the game, or what topics need to be analyzed from a sociological perspective that, at a first glance, seem to be associated with other (sub-)disciplines such as psychology, epidemiology, or economics.

While fostering the “local” Swiss community of sociology, we also aim to advance the journal’s international embeddedness. In particular, capitalizing on our nationally “international” multilingualism, we want to open up new avenues for the dialogue between the intense German, French and Italian speaking sociological traditions and by doing so continue to build a journal at the crossroad of intellectual and linguistic diversity. Beyond celebrating this diversity, we want to promote in particular young scholars in or from Switzerland to publish their research on inter/national cases, on inter/national topics, written by inter/national teams. Moreover, let us emphasize that we welcome ideas for special issues or focus issues.

As the new editors-in-chief we plan to address ongoing challenges and are confident of being able to develop the Swiss Journal of Sociology as a place of debate on Swiss society and its place in the international community. Our work as editors-in-chief would not be possible without the work of an even larger team. Both the outgoing editor and the incoming editorial team would like to thank Marion Beetschen for her essential administrative and editorial work as well as her coordination during the transitional period. We are very grateful for her work as submission manager and her function as our “institutional memory”. Our thanks also include the book review editors who worked for the Swiss Journal of Sociology during the last for years and with whom we will have the pleasure to work in the future. Our thanks go to Dietmar Wetzel who was the German book review editor for many years, to Julie Falcon and Kevin Toffel who was in charge of the French reviews these last years. Kevin will continue his work for the review and will be completed by: Roman Gibel (German), and Carole Christe (English). Further thanks go to the members of the editorial committee until the end of 2020, as well as to all the reviewers who invested their time and passion in order to help us to improve the manuscripts and make the SJS a better journal. Finally, we continue to look forward to work with all staff members at Seismo and Sciendo to bring an open-access journal to an interested international readership.

In 2020, we published one regular issue and two special issues. The first special issue, curated by Ruxandra Oana Ciobanu, Mihaela Nedelcu, Eva Soom Ammann, and Karin van Holten, addressed the *“Intersections between Ageing and Migration”*

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published, and manuscripts submitted in 2020

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	22	100	42	100
Methods				
Empirical qualitative	7	31.8	26	63.4
Empirical quantitative	10	45.5	9	22.0
Empirical mixed	2	9.1	4	9.8
Theoretical	3	13.6	2	4.9
Essayistic	0	0.0	0	0.0
Methodological	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	22	100.0	41	100.0
Language				
German	6	27.3	5	12.2
English	11	50.0	20	48.8
French	5	22.7	16	39.0
Total	22	100.0	41	100.0
Region of Origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	5	22.7	10	24.4
French-speaking Switzerland	10	45.5	13	31.7
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0.0	0	0.0
Germany	2	9.1	2	4.9
France	1	4.5	7	17.1
Other European countries	4	18.2	6	14.6
Non-European countries	0	0.0	3	7.3
Total	22	100.0	41	100.0
Sex (first author)				
Female	12	54.5	20	48.8
Male	10	45.5	21	51.2
Total	22	100.0	41	100.0

through different angles, for instance by examining retirement policies, situations of old refugees or new models of care for the elderly. In November 2020 we published the second special issue, entitled “*Understanding social dynamics: 20 years of the Swiss Household Panel*”. This issue, coordinated by Robin Tillmann, Monica Budowski, Dean R. Lillard, and Annette Scherpenzeel, emphasised the importance of social science research infrastructure such as the Swiss Household Panel and perfectly illustrated its analytical potential for Swiss Sociology.

Articles published and manuscripts submitted: In the three issues of 2020, the Swiss Journal of Sociology published 22 articles, 3 introductions and 9 book

reviews. Compared to 2019, the numbers of submitted manuscripts remained basically constant (43 in 2019, 41 in 2020). A detailed overview of the published and submitted manuscripts can be found in Table 1. Please note that the rejection rate cannot be deduced from a comparison of submissions and publications in the same year.

Publications: As in the last years, most articles the Swiss Journal of Sociology published were empirical papers. Seven articles used qualitative methods, ten articles used quantitative methods and two of them a mixed methods research designs. Pursuing the trend of the last years towards more contributions in English, half of all articles have been written in English, six in German and five in French. A large majority of our first authors were employed at Swiss institutions: 13 at French-speaking institutions and ten at German-speaking institutions. The remaining scholars were employed at institutions in Germany (two), France (one) and extra-European countries (four). Twelve of our first authors in 2020 were women, ten were men.

Submissions: Of the 41 manuscripts submitted in 2020, a large majority used qualitative methods (26). Nine manuscripts were based on quantitative methods, four on mixed-methods and two were of theoretical nature. Again, a majority of the papers was written in English (20), 16 were written in French and five in German. Most of the authors of the submitted manuscripts worked in Switzerland, two were employed at German institutions, seven at a French institution and nine in other countries. We received an almost equal number of papers from women and men as first authors in 2020.

Financial support: The members of the Swiss Sociological Associations are the main funders of the Swiss Journal of Sociology. In addition, in 2020 as in previous years, we have received generous funding from the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences. Last but not least, we also received very welcome support from sociological institutes or departments of most of the Swiss universities. We would like to thank all these institutions for their generous contribution!

In 2021, the first Issue 47(1) will be an exciting special issue on “Sociology of migration: past, present, future” edited by Milena Chimienti, Claudio Bolzman and Didier Ruedin. Issues two and three will be the two first issues that come as a “focus issue”, our new format that combines a section of about five papers on a specific topic with a series of varia contributions. The issue 47(2), curated by Barbara Lucas, Jean-Michel Bonvin and Oliver Hübelin will be on “Non take-up of health and social benefits”, the issue 47(3), edited by Gaëlle Maignez and Lionel Francou, will be on the topic of “Associations and Politics”. We wish you a less disruptive year 2021 and are looking forward to your submissions and contributions to the Swiss Journal of Sociology.

Lucerne, St.Gallen, Lausanne, January 2021