Editorial

Rainer Diaz-Bone, Roman Gibel, Kenneth Horvath, Jörg Rössel,
and Stephanie Steinmetz

In the editorial of the first issue of the year of the Swiss Journal of Sociology (SJS) we usually look back on the past year, inform about personnel changes in the editorial team, and make an outlook on the coming year and upcoming projects.

In a first step, the year 2022 is examined in more detail from a publishing perspective. SJS received a total of 36 articles, from which 23 were published (publication rate of roughly 64 per cent). Last year, more than two-thirds of the accepted articles were methodically qualitatively oriented. This represents the highest percentage value since 2010 (whereby the mean value of 45 percent qualitatively oriented articles applies for the period 2010–2016). The trend towards qualitative methods, however, has been continuing since 2021, when two thirds of all accepted articles were already qualitative studies. By far the most articles submitted last year were in English (around 66 percent). However, the figure corrects substantially to under 40 percent when looking at the number of accepted articles, resulting in a relatively balanced language distribution between German, French, and English. Thus, the trend has continued since 2017 that mainly English-language articles are accepted and published. This is despite the fact that the regional "origin" of the first authors since 2017 has always been the French-speaking part of Switzerland, followed by the German-speaking part of Switzerland, which in 2022 was the larger group again for the first time since 2017 (just under 35 percent).

These are indicators that SJS is deliberately chosen as a journal for an international market and that English is therefore increasingly used. Furthermore, a slight trend can be seen in that authors from other European countries publish with the SJS (26 percent in 2022, before that steadily increasing since 2017). This can also be seen as a signal of international visibility. Another trend that has held steady since 2020 is that women make up the majority of first authors (over 56 percent in 2022).

Regarding the time between submission and decision, the following time averages emerged for manuscripts submitted in 2022: It takes 2.7 months between submission and the first decision (including desk rejects). If desk reject cases are not considered, the average time until a first decision is made is four months. Looking at final or reject decisions, it takes on average 3.5 months (with desk rejects) and 5.5 months without desk rejects. These are runtimes that signify fast processes in journal management and are certainly one of the qualities of the Swiss Journal of Sociology that should be emphasized, also in international comparison.

Table 1   Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in 2022

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	23	100.0	36	100
Methods				
Empirical qualitative	16	69.6	19	52.8
Empirical quantitative	7	30.4	11	30.6
Empirical mixed	0	0.0	3	8.3
Theoretical	0	0.0	3	8.3
Total	23	100.0	36	100.0
Language				
German	8	34.8	5	13.9
English	9	39.1	24	66.7
French	6	26.1	7	19.4
Total	23	100.0	36	100.0
Region of origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	8	34.8	9	25.0
French-speaking Switzerland	4	17.4	4	11.1
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0.0	0	0.0
Germany	6	26.1	8	22.2
France	1	4.3	5	13.9
Other European countries	4	17.4	2	5.6
Non-European countries	0	0.0	8	22.2
Total	23	100.0	36	100.0
Sex (first author)				
Female	13	56.5	17	47.2
Male	10	43.5	19	52.8
Total	23	100.0	36	100.0

In terms of content, two special issues last year placed a particular focus on the sociology of education and public administrations: The special issue "Experiments in the Sociology of Education – Promises and Experiences," edited by Rolf Becker, Joël Berger, David Glauser, and Ben Jann, and "Ethnicity and Public Service. How the State Deals with Ethnic Differences," edited by Esteban Piñeiro and Constantin Wagner. The range of articles outside of special issues was wide. From religious radicalization (Jürgen Endres), gender order reproductions in Austria (Sandra Maria Pfister), performative effects of intervention (Daniel Lambelet), aspirations of sans-papiers (Liala Consoli, Claudine Burton-Jeangros, and Yves Jackson), recruitment in low-skilled jobs (Eva Nadai and Robin Hübscher), teachers' and doctors' worldviews (Dominik Robin, Michael Gemperle, Michael von Rhein, Frank Wieber, and Sandra

Hotz) to changes in individual competencies at the end of school (Ariane Basler and Irene Kriesi) also with regard to migrant children (Sara Möser).

For the past year, the editorial board of the Swiss Journal of Sociology has been in a new line-up. Kenneth Horvath (Zurich University of Teacher Education), Roman Gibel (University of Lucerne) and Stephanie Steinmetz (University of Lausanne) have joined the team with Jörg Rössel and Rainer Diaz-Bone as of January 2022. Jörg Rössel (University of Zurich) and Rainer Diaz-Bone (University of Lucerne) will retire from the Editorial Board end of March 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for organizing the editorial board, for the comfortable introduction of the new editorial board members, and for the work they have done for the Journal. Nuria Sanchez-Mira (University of Neuchatel) will be joining the Editorial Board soon. The ongoing processes have settled down well, the Journal is well organized and smoothly running.

In the future, however, there will be some challenges for the Editorial Board. The contract with our online publisher Sciendo will be cancelled by the end of next year. The online publication system is intended to be moved to the SOAP2 platform. A crucial challenge will be the installation of a compelling online first tool, that will allow the journal even faster article processing. This development is closely related to the pursuit of an Open Access strategy, which the board aims for to be characteristic for the Swiss Journal of Sociology in the future. The editorial board will also explore new possibilities for indexing the journal.

For 2023, several special issues resp. focus issues have been launched. First, "Anchoring International Organizations in the Study of Organizational Sociology," edited by Fanny Badache and Leah Kimber, " Explorinig Life Courses in the Making: 20 years of TREE (Transitions from Education to Empoyment)", edited by Thomas Meyer, Ben Jann, and Sandra Hupka-Brunner, and the special issue "Digital Academia. Investigating Science and Higher Education in the Digital Age", edited by Luca Tratschin, Christian Leder, Katja Rost, and Philippe Saner. The SJS has also issued an ongoing open call for special issues proposals in order to plan upcoming issues early.

The editorial board: Rainer Diaz-Bone, Roman Gibel, Kenneth Horvath, Jörg Rössel, and Stephanie Steinmetz

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