

FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS
2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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Thanks to the hard work of the editors, staff, editorial board, reviewers, and authors, the flow of submissions to FPA has remained steady. The quality, breadth, and diversity of the articles have continued to improve. The turnaround time for manuscript decisions has increase, though it is still below the ISA target. That said the editorial team is working to correct this situation. The rest of this report provides details on FPA's performance over the past year as well as other journal highlights.

Manuscript Flow

From January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, we received 154 new submissions. While this is a 10% decrease from 2012 (a year that saw a 50% increase in manuscript flow), the number of manuscripts is still 8% higher than the average since the Missouri team took over editorship and 114% higher from the previous editorship. We are not concerned about the 20 fewer manuscripts this year and see the current flow as very healthy.

All issues of volume 9 were on time, and we used all but one of our budgeted pages.

Volume 10 Issue 1 is already published, and the rest of Volume 10 is already planned. We have published 34 articles in Wiley-Blackwell's online queue, EarlyView. Those articles will appear in print in the coming issues. Thus, we have backlog of approximately five issues.

In 2013, our rejection rate for new manuscripts was 70.3%. Fifty-three percent of all R&R manuscripts were accepted, 35% were sent through at least one more round of revisions, and 13% were rejected. Overall, this makes our rejection rate 74%, a slight increase from 2012. Further, the rejection rate increased gradually through 2013 from 68% to 74%. Because the FPA manuscript flow has increased over the years, however, the editors must continue to increase the rejection rate to manage the flow of manuscripts and to keep the backlog in check.

Reviewer Interactions

To secure reviewers, we contacted an average of 5 people per manuscript. Approximately 55% of those contacted agreed to review for FPA, while 37% declined to review and 9% never responded to the request. The average time for a single review of a new manuscript was 27 days. These statistics are very similar to the past.

Turnaround Time

The average time to decision for an original manuscript is 72 days. This average is significantly higher than 2012 but below the ISA target of 75 days. The editor-in-chief and one of the associate editors became department chairs in August, 2013, causing a temporary slowdown for FPA. The editor-in-chief takes full responsibility for the delay, and with the team, has proposed to the ISA Publications Committee to add two new associate editors. We are confident that the addition of the new associate editors will ensure a return to the sub-60 day turnaround for manuscripts.

The average time to decision for an R&R is only 56 days. This is a nine-day increase from 2012. While the team experienced some slow-down this year as discussed above, the increase is largely driven by more R&R manuscripts being sent out for review rather than the final decision being made in-house. The team used more reviewers for R&Rs to help increase the rejection rate.

Diversity

We are pleased with the representation of women as authors. In 2013, 32% of the published articles were authored or co-authored by women, a slight increase from 2012. Further, three of the lead articles in 2013 were authored or co-authored by women. Of total manuscripts submitted, 33% were written or co-written by women. This is an increase from 2012.

Breaking down submissions by country, 49% of all submitted manuscripts come from the United States, 6.1% from Germany, 4.7% from the United Kingdom, 4.1% from Canada, 2.7% from China and Israel, with the balance from 29 other countries. This distribution shows a modest increase in the international diversity of FPA. Thirty-six percent of the articles published in 2013 could be identified as being authored or co-authored by scholars at non-U.S. institutions.

Other Highlights and Issues

The increased number of submissions has left the size of the backlog at a level with which we are not comfortable. As mentioned above, we will continue to increase our rejection rate gradually to cope with these growing pains.

Our impact factor increased this year by almost 50%. Such fluctuations are not uncommon for a young journal, and we are happy to see the journal's impact increasing.

As before, we owe the authors, editorial board, ISA, publishers, reviewers, and especially our editorial assistants (who keep things running smoothly) a tremendous debt. Without their help, our stewardship of FPA would not be possible.