

## **Canadian Journal of Political Science**

2013 End-of-year Report  
April 9, 2014

Prepared by Graham White (English Co-editor)

This is the second annual report on the *Journal/Revue* on behalf of the English editorial team at Ryerson University and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). Our operation is funded by generous contributions from the Association, from Ryerson University, from UTM and from the University of Toronto's Graduate Department of Political Science. The *Journal/Revue* is also supported by a subvention from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The team – Graham White (UTM), Co-editor; Carolyn Johns (Ryerson), Assistant Editor; Peter Loewen (UTM), Assistant Editor; and Bryan Evans (Ryerson), Book Review Editor – has now been in place for nearly two years.

Our efforts have been greatly assisted by the strong work of our Editorial Assistants, Jack Lucas at UTM and Thomas McDowell at Ryerson and by the highly professional and supportive staff at Cambridge University Press.

This report covers the English-language component of the *Journal/Revue*. Information on the French-language side may be found in the report of French Co-editor, Daniel Salée.

Our previous report mentioned three impending changes that stood to affect the *Journal/Revue*. Two have occurred; a third is pending. First, the membership of the Association approved, at last June's annual general meeting, a change to the effect that subscription to the *Journal/Revue* includes only electronic access; those wishing to receive paper copies are now required to pay an additional amount. This change has had no effect on the *Journal/Revue's* editorial operations. Second, several months ago, in partnership with Cambridge University Press, the *Journal/Revue* adopted a "First View" approach, whereby accepted articles and book reviews are posted on the *Journal/Revue's* web site as soon as they are copyedited.

Finally, SSHRC continues to move towards implementation of open access principles for academic research. This will likely include the imposition of open access requirements on journals to which SSHRC provides financial support. Timelines for such a policy change are unclear. As well, "open access" may take a number of forms. Accordingly it is not yet possible to determine how the move to open access will affect the *Journal/Revue* but it is clear that significant change is in the offing.

As in years past, the biggest challenge in 2013 was reviewer fatigue, in terms of assessing manuscripts. In 2013, just over half (231 of 452) of the invitations to review manuscripts resulted in completed reviews. Once a reviewer agreed to assess a manuscript, the mean time taken to complete a review was 31 days, down somewhat from 37.7 days in 2012. This figure disguises a wide variation: 25 per cent of reviews completed in 2013 took over 45 days. Since we normally solicit three reviews on each manuscript, a single overdue assessment can significantly add to the time required to reach a decision.

At the same time, we continue to be impressed and grateful for the time and insight that reviewers contribute. The typical manuscript review is extensive, thoughtful and helpful to authors, even in cases where the ultimate editorial decision is negative.

Overall, the data contained in this report present a picture of continuity with previous years' operations. Various indicators have changed marginally since last year, but no dramatic or significant changes are evident. Tables 1 to 5 present data on authors, reviewers and submissions.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2013 the English editorial team received a total of 104 new manuscripts (96 original studies and 8 research notes) including Professor Michael Atkinson's Presidential Address. In the four issues of Volume 45 (2013), 28 articles were published in English, compared with 27 in Volume 44.

The mean number of days from submission to first decision was 70 days for original submissions, down marginally from 2012 (73 days). For research notes, the first decision took on average 33 days (47 days in 2012).

Table 1, which shows the geographic source of manuscripts, demonstrates that the *Journal/Revue* continues to benefit from strong international attention, with nearly a third of all submissions coming from outside Canada.

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the articles published in 2013 by the subfields used by the Association at the annual conference. Categorization of articles is somewhat arbitrary; for example, all three of the articles included in “Political Behaviour/Sociology” might have been considered as “Canadian Politics” since the cases and data they examined were largely or entirely Canadian.

The distribution of the 107 first decisions rendered in 2013 is presented in Table 3. Data on the final disposition of the 104 submissions received in 2013 are presented in Table 4. (Note that first decisions would include some manuscripts submitted in 2012, so that the cohorts examined in these tables are not identical.) The initial rejection rate – 73 per cent – is effectively the same as in the previous year (75 per cent). Of the 26 ‘R&R’ initial decisions in 2013, 13 were ultimately accepted, 1 was rejected, and 12 were still awaiting a final decision at the time of writing.

In terms of decisions on the 104 submissions in 2013, since all but three submissions for which no final decision had been made at the time of writing had received a ‘revise and resubmit’ first decision, a substantial proportion of them are likely to be accepted. Accordingly, the overall acceptance rate will likely be in the range of 27 to 30 per cent.

Table 5 presents data on gender for articles published, manuscripts submitted, and reviewers invited and completed. Eighteen per cent of first authors of 2013 articles were women, down from 30 per cent in 2012. Women submitted 28 per cent of the new manuscripts in 2013, as compared with 29 per cent in 2012. The percentage of invitations to review manuscripts that went to women was essentially unchanged from the previous year: 28 per cent in 2013, 29 per cent in 2012.

Tables 6 to 8 present data on book reviews published in 2013. Last year’s report highlighted difficulties in soliciting book reviewers. Due to the efforts of the book review team (Review Editor Bryan Evans and Editorial Assistant Thomas McDowell) the *Journal/Revue* now has a substantial number of English book reviews awaiting publication

**Table 1 / Tableau 1**  
**Geographical Location of Authors and Assessors /**  
**Répartition géographique des auteurs et des évaluateurs**  
**New Manuscripts / Nouveaux manuscrits\***  
**January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013/1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2013 au 31 décembre 2013**

	<b>Published / Publiés Authors/Auteurs</b>	<b>Submitted / Soumis Authors/Auteurs</b>	<b>Assessors Requested/ Évaluateurs à qui on a demandé</b>
British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	2	8	41
Prairies	1	13	50
Ontario	10	36	183
Québec	8	7	38
Atlantic/Atlantique	2	9	29
Territoires / Territoires	0	0	1
USA / É.-U.	3	16	63
Europe	2	5	33
Other / Autre	0	10	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>452</b>

\*The numbers in the second and third columns refer to the geographic location of the first author of each new manuscript. / Les chiffres dans les deuxième et troisième colonnes réfèrent à la région géographique du premier auteur de chaque manuscrit.

**Table 2 / Tableau 2**  
**Manuscripts Published by Field / Manuscrits publiés par domaine**  
**January 1 –December 31, 2013 / 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2013 au 31 décembre 2013**

Canadian Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions canadiennes	8
Political Theory / Théorie politique	1
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	2
Comparative Politics and Institutions Politique et institutions comparées	3
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	3
Political Economy / Économie politique	
Provincial and Territorial Politics Politique provinciale et territoriale	2
Public Administration / Administration publique	
Law and Public Policy Droit et analyse de politiques	6
Women, Gender and Politics Femmes, genre et politique	
Race, Ethnicity, Indigenous People and Politics / Race, peuples autochtones et politique	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

**Table 3 / Tableau 3**  
**First Decisions in 2013 / Décisions initiales en 2013**

Total	107
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	16
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	62
Accepted by assessors / Acceptés par les évaluateurs	3
Revise and resubmit / À réviser et à resoumettre	26

**Table 4 / Tableau 4**  
**Final Disposition of New Manuscripts Submitted in 2013 / Décision finale au sujet des nouveaux manuscrits soumis en 2013**

Manuscripts Submitted / Manuscrits soumis	104
Rejected without review / Rejetés sans évaluation	16
Rejected after review / Rejetés après évaluation	58
Accepted / Acceptés	14
Withdrawn by authors / Retirés par des auteurs	0
Withdrawn by editors / Retirés par les directeurs	1
Under review (as of April 7, 2014) / En cours d'évaluation (au 7 avril 2014)	15

**Table 5 / Tableau 5**  
**Gender Distribution of Authors and Assessors in 2013/**  
**Répartition des auteurs et des évaluateurs selon les sexes 2013**

	Authors / Auteurs		Assessors / Évaluateurs	
	Published / Publiés	Submitted / Soumis	Completed / Ayant terminé leur mandat	Invited / Invités
Female / Femme	5	29	62	127
Male / Homme	23	75	169	325
TOTAL	28	104	231	452

**Table 6 / Tableau 6**  
**2013 English Book Reviews - Fields / Recensions de livres en anglais en 2013 - Domaines**

Canadian Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions canadiennes	2
Political Theory / Théorie politique	5
International Relations and Canadian Foreign Policy / Relations internationales et politique étrangère canadienne	9
Comparative Politics and Institutions / Politique et institutions comparées	2
Local and Urban Politics / Politique locale et urbaine	0
Political Behaviour/Sociology / Comportement politique/sociologie	3
Political Economy / Économie politique	2
Provincial and Territorial Politics / Politique provinciale et territoriale	0
Public Administration / Administration publique	0
Law and Public Policy / Droit et analyse de politiques	7
Women, Gender and Politics / Femmes, genre et politique	0
Total	30

**Table 7 / Tableau 7**  
**Geographical Distribution of Reviewers, 2013/Répartition géographique des critiques, 2013**

British Columbia / Colombie-Britannique	4
Prairies	2
Ontario	12
Québec	4
Atlantic/Atlantique	2
Europe	2
Other / Autre	4
TOTAL	30

**Table 8 / Tableau 8**  
**Gender Distribution of Reviewers 2013 / Répartition des critiques selon les sexes, 2013**

Male / Homme	20
Female / Femme	10
TOTAL	30