

Editorial

Rainer Diaz-Bone (University of Lucerne) and Jörg Rössel (University of Zurich)

This editorial reports on the last volume of the Swiss Journal of Sociology (SJS) and gives some foresight about future developments of the journal.

We would like to start the editorial with some descriptive information on the articles published in the last year. In 2021, SJS received 42 manuscript submissions and published 23 articles. As table 1 shows, in 2021, SJS received and published almost only contributions based on empirical research, with both qualitative and quantitative methods included. For some years now, articles written in English represent the biggest share among the different publication languages of SJS. This enhances the access of SJS articles not only in Switzerland and the neighboring countries but worldwide. Mainly Swiss scholars publish in SJS, which shows that the journal is a major forum for discussions in Swiss sociology. Also, we would like to point to the balanced gender proportion, slightly more women are (first) authors of published articles.

We would like to inform the readers of the journal of some organizational changes and innovations that are already in place or have been implemented during the last year. Since some years, the journal has been attempting to follow an open access policy. Articles from 2016 on are available open access on Sciendo. Also, on Sciendo articles are published online first as an additional service, see <https://sciendo.com/journal/SJS>. Former volumes of SJS are available at E-Periodica via <https://www.e-periodica.ch/digbib/volumes?UID=soz-001>.

We editors adjusted and streamlined the reviewing process. First, the editors inspect submissions about their general quality. If submissions do not meet the minimal standards of sociological research articles they are rejected by the editors without additional reviewing or further revision steps (“desk rejects”). But the majority of submissions is accepted for the reviewing process, which is then done by at least two external reviewers and one of the editors. We have implemented that there will be only two rounds of reviews. After the second review a manuscript is (conditionally) accepted or finally rejected.

On average, reviewing takes 6.7 months (excluding desk rejects), between submission and final decision. We consider this as an indication of the generally well-organized review process at SJS. We have to thank the reviewers, who contributed to the evaluation of the quality of the submitted articles. Without their work, publishing a high-quality peer reviewed journal would not be possible. The reviewers are listed on the website of SJS.

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in 2021

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	23	100.0	42	100.0
Methods				
Empirical qualitative	14	60.9	19	45.2
Empirical quantitative	5	21.7	16	38.1
Empirical mixed	3	13.0	4	9.5
Theoretical	1	4.3	3	7.1
Essayistic	0	0.0	0	0.0
Methodological	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	23	100.0	42	100.0
Language				
German	5	21.7	13	31.0
English	11	47.8	23	54.8
French	7	30.4	6	14.3
Total	23	100.0	42	100.0
Region of Origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	5	21.7	13	31.0
French-speaking Switzerland	9	39.1	8	19.0
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0.0	0	0.0
Germany	2	8.7	10	23.8
France	2	8.7	2	4.8
Other European countries	4	17.4	4	9.5
Non-European countries	1	4.3	5	11.9
Total	23	100.0	42	100.0
Sex (first author)				
Female	12	52.2	21	50.0
Male	11	47.8	21	50.0
Total	23	100.0	42	100.0

In March 2021, Rainer Diaz-Bone and Jörg Rössel took over the editorship of the journal, continued ongoing publication and initiated new special issues and focus issues. For many years, the editors in chief have not changed. This has definitively advantages as, over the years, the experience and knowledge of editors of how to administrate the journal increase a lot. However, we have decided with consultation by the board of the Swiss Sociological Association to follow a more open, more diverse and more flexible strategy regarding the composition of the group of editors in chief in the future. In the course of the first months of this year Roman Gibel (University of Lucerne), Kenneth Horvarth (Zurich University of Teacher Educa-

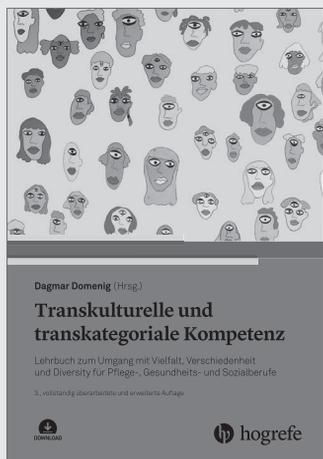
tion) and Stephanie Steinmetz (University of Lausanne) have been invited to join the group of editors in chief – although Roman Gibel has served already before as review editor. This new group of editors in chief does represent more strands and approaches of sociology in Switzerland. As other journals do, we intend to have a group of editors in chief, whose members serve as editors in chief for a couple of years and then will be replaced by new ones. Such a “rotation principle” will surely foster the links of SJS to different Swiss departments of sociology and to a variety of different research traditions in Swiss sociology. Still, the group of editors in chief is supported by Marion Beetschen as submission manager and editorial assistant. For some years now, she has proven herself as a reliable and appreciated collaborator to guarantee high publication standards, which SJS aims for. We editors are thankful for this.

In regard to the ongoing publications of SJS we can announce for 2022 an upcoming special issue on “Experiments in the Sociology of Education – Promises and Experiences” edited by Rolf Becker, Joël Berger, David Glauser and Ben Jann. Thus, this special issue will contribute to make the methodological focus of the SJS even broader, by including a discussion on experiments in a specific field of sociology. There will be a second special issue in fall on “Ethnicity and Public Administration. State Handling of Ethnic Differences” edited by Esteban Piñeiro and Constantin Wagner, thus taking up an issue of enormous public and sociological relevance.

We have already planned future special issues and focus issues of SJS for 2023. There will be a special issue on “Anchoring International Organizations in the Study of Organizational Sociology”, edited by Fanny Badache and Leah Kimber. This special issue will contribute towards an organizational turn in international relations and thus connects political science and sociology. Another special issue will be devoted to the twentieth anniversary of TREE (Transitions from Education to Employment), one of the most important survey studies of Swiss social sciences under the title “20 years of TREE. Exploring Life Courses in the Making” edited by Thomas Meyer, Ben Jann and Sandra Hupka-Brunner. And finally, there will be a special issue on “Digital Academia. Investigating Science and Higher Education in the Digital Age” edited by Luca Tratschin, Christian Leder, Katja Rost and Philippe Saner. This special issue takes up one of the most important social trends of our times, digitization, and discusses its relevance with regard to academic organizations.

Lucerne and Zurich, February 2022

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