

## Editorial

Felix Bühlmann\*, Nora Linder\*\*, and Christian Suter\*\*

This Editorial gives an overview of the most important events and decisions related to the Swiss Journal of Sociology (SJS), and summarizes the activities of its editorial team for the calendar year 2016, including an overview of the manuscripts submitted and articles published.<sup>1</sup> The year 2016 has been marked by the moving of the SJS editorial office from the University of Neuchâtel to the University of Lausanne. With the current issue this transition process has been successfully concluded. This editorial, therefore, includes a general review of the activities of the editorial team at the University of Neuchâtel over the past years (2010 to 2016), in addition to the usual annual reporting on the activities of the previous calendar year. As in the last few years, the editorial will also appear on the website of the journal together with some additional information.

### 1 Summary of the activities of the editorial team at the University of Neuchâtel (2010–2016)

The editorial team at the Sociological Institute of the University of Neuchâtel took on the editing of the SJS in December 2009. One of the *first* tasks of the incoming Neuchâtel editorial team was to discuss and to reorganize the cooperation with Seismo in order to establish a detailed planning and to define binding deadlines in the copyediting and production process of each issue which would guarantee the timeliness of the production and delivery of the journal – a key indicator of the quality of a journal. Apart from the issues of the first volume entirely produced under the supervision of the Neuchâtel editorial team, all volumes and issues (i. e. the issues of vol. 37–42, covering the years 2011–2016), as well as the current issue 43 (1), have been published on time or even before the agreed deadlines (i. e. the 1<sup>st</sup> of March for issue 1, the 1<sup>st</sup> of July for issue 2, and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November for issue 3 of each volume).

A *second* core issue tackled by the Neuchâtel editorial team was to increase the quality and the transparency of the manuscript reviewing and selection process based on anonymous peer reviewing. The editorial team, therefore, built up new

\* University of Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, socio.journal@unil.ch.

\*\* University of Neuchâtel, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, socio.journal@unine.ch.

1 In 2016 the editorial team was composed of Felix Bühlmann (incoming editor-in-chief) and Christian Suter (outgoing editor-in-chief), as well as Marion Beetschen and Nora Linder serving as submission managers and editorial assistants.

working instruments and a comprehensive documentation system including several core indicators and targets of the evaluation process. Starting from volume 38 (2012) a regular report on manuscript submissions and reviewing procedure based on these indicators (i. e. number of submissions, duration of reviewing process, number of reviews, rates of success, the distribution of manuscript submissions regarding several criteria like methodological orientation, language, regional origin and the sex of the authors) has been made and published in the editorial of the March issue and on the website of the journal. Table 1 gives an overview of some of these indicators regarding the 288 manuscripts submitted to and treated by the Neuchâtel editorial office (from 2010 to 2015), including a division into two types of issue (regular or special).

The figures provided in Table 1 allow a closer look at the success rates of the manuscript submissions of different groups of authors. The overall success rate (of the 288 submissions) is 45%. The seemingly considerably higher success rate of special issue submissions (71%) as compared to regular issue submissions (35%) has to be attributed to the two-step selection process of special issues (all manuscript submissions require a prior acceptance of the abstract submission at the first step of the evaluation process); thus, the 84 manuscript submissions to special issues have been selected from 145 abstract submissions, revealing a “corrected” success rate of 41%. Another marked difference in success rates concerns the region of origin (of the first author): authors from French- and German-speaking Switzerland show considerably higher success rates than authors from other regions, particularly regarding regular issue submissions (59% for French- and 47% for German-speaking Switzerland), whereas the authors from non-European countries (mostly from Africa and Asia) have the lowest success rates (7%), followed by authors from “other European countries” (14%), Germany/Austria (16%) and France (19%). There are also substantial differences in the overall success rates between empirical (quantitative, qualitative or mixed) submissions on the one hand (between 45% and 60%) and theoretical (24%), methodological (22%) and essayistic contributions (6%) on the other hand. Only minor differences in the overall success rates can be found, however, regarding language. The slightly lower success rate of submissions written in English (41%) and French (45%) in comparison to German (50%) may be explained by the lower quality of the 39 submissions from non-European countries (all but two were written either in French or English). Finally, regarding the sex of the first author’s indicator, the distribution of published articles is quite balanced, with slightly more articles authored by males (53%) than females (47%). Success rates, however, are somewhat higher for female (54%) than male (first) authors (40%). A more detailed analysis reveals that submissions of gender-mixed (70%) and of female teams (71%) have had the highest success rates and submissions of single male authors (30%) and of male teams (31%) the lowest ones.

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles accepted for publication 2010–2016 and manuscripts submitted 2010–2015

	Articles accepted for publication 2010–2016						Manuscripts submitted 2010–2015											
	Regular issues			Special issues			Total			Regular issues			Special issues			Total		
	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate
<b>Total</b>	71	100	35%	60 <sup>a</sup>	100	71%	131	100	45%	204	100	45%	84	100	288	100		
<b>Methods</b>																		
empirical – qualitative	23	32	32%	26	43	74%	49	37	45%	73	36	45%	35	42	108	38		
empirical – quantitative	42	59	53%	23	38	74%	65	50	59%	79	39	59%	31	37	110	38		
empirical – mixed	2	3	33%	4	7	...	6	5	60%	6	3	60%	4	5	10	3		
theoretical	3	4	14%	5	8	45%	8	6	24%	22	11	24%	11	13	33	11		
essayistic	1	1	6%	0	0	...	1	1	6%	17	8	6%	1	1	18	6		
methodological	0	0	0%	2	3	...	2	2	22%	7	3	22%	2	2	9	3		
<b>Language</b>																		
German	29	41	40%	22	37	73%	51	39	50%	72	35	50%	30	36	102	35		
French	26	37	35%	17	28	81%	43	33	45%	74	36	45%	21	25	95	33		
English	16	23	28%	21	35	64%	37	28	41%	58	28	41%	33	39	91	32		
<b>Region of origin (first author)</b>																		
German-speaking Switzerland	25	35	47%	19	32	76%	44	34	56%	53	26	56%	25	30	78	27		
French-speaking Switzerland	33	46	59%	20	33	83%	53	40	66%	56	27	66%	24	29	80	28		
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	2	2	4	1		
Germany, Austria	5	7	16%	9	15	60%	14	11	30%	32	16	30%	15	18	47	16		
France	5	7	19%	2	3	...	7	5	24%	26	13	24%	3	4	29	10		
other European countries	1	1	14%	4	7	...	5	4	45%	7	3	45%	4	5	11	4		
non-European countries	2	3	7%	5	8	45%	7	5	18%	28	14	18%	11	13	39	14		

Continuation of Table 1 on the next page.

Continuation of Table 1.

	Articles accepted for publication 2010–2016						Manuscripts submitted 2010–2015												
	Regular issues			Special issues			Total			Regular issues			Special issues			Total			
	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	N	%	Success rate	
<b>Sex (first author)</b>																			
female	31	44	41%	30	50	79%	61	47	54%	76	37	54%	38	45	54%	114	40	40	40
male	40	56	31%	30	50	65%	70	53	40%	128	63	40%	46	55	40%	174	60	60	60

Notes: Figures for “Articles accepted for publication” and “Manuscripts submitted” can be compared, as they draw on the same database. “Articles accepted for publication” include all the accepted articles treated by the SJS team in Neuchâtel and published from issue 37(1) 2011 to the current issue 43(1) 2017. Eleven articles couldn’t be included, as they were either treated in Basel (2010) and Lausanne (2015), or were introductory and review articles. “Manuscripts submitted” include all the articles submitted to the SJS in Neuchâtel, whose process has been entirely completed. Five manuscripts couldn’t be included, as they were treated in Lausanne or have been still under process. Success rates are defined as the ratio of the number of articles accepted for publication to the number of manuscripts submitted (expressed as a percentage). . . . : success rates not shown due to  $N < 5$ .<sup>a</sup> including three articles submitted to a special issue but eventually published in a regular issue.

A *third* and more long-term objective of the Neuchâtel editorial team was to increase the attractiveness of the SJS for potential authors by indexing the journal in important citation databases, particularly the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Due to the rapid implementation of the first two aims (timeliness, quality and transparency of the reviewing process), which were the prerequisites for indexing the journal, a first application to include the SJS in the SSCI has been made in 2012. This SSCI indexing, however, could not have been done at that time, due to the journal's low visibility and citation record. Apart from the fact that access to the SSCI is rather difficult for a multilingual journal (at that time the SJS was mainly in German and French), a main issue was the low visibility of the SJS, which was related to the rather unsatisfactory SSA-SJS website. We hope that the new open access publishing strategy recently implemented by the Lausanne editorial team (see below for more details) will improve the journal's visibility and attractiveness in the near future.

Indexing is certainly an important component in the assessment of a journal's international standing. However, the *scientific* quality of a journal, is particularly reflected by the number of its award-winning published articles. The Neuchâtel editorial team is therefore very pleased that during its 2010–2016 editorship the authors of three articles published in the SJS have been awarded by important scientific journal prizes, namely the 2012 and 2016 CORECHED (Swiss Council for Educational Research) Prize, rewarding outstanding publications in educational research, as well as the 2014 Fritz Thyssen 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for journal articles in the social sciences.

A *fourth* and final core issue tackled by the Neuchâtel editorial team concerned the improvement of its editorial work's financial conditions. At the beginning of its activity the yearly budget of the editorial office granted by the Swiss Sociological Association (SSA) amounted to just 9000 CHF. On the one hand, the editorial team negotiated an increase of this basic subsidy of the SSA (which has been financed by an increase of the journal's subscription fees). On the other hand, we contacted the Swiss universities' sociological institutes and departments to request that they support the journal with a donation. We are exceptionally grateful that the SJS has received every year, since 2011, from two (2011) to seven (2015–2016) of these institutes donations generating additional financial resources ranging from 5000 to 15000 CHF per year. Thanks to this support the overall annual budget of the editorial office could be increased to about 30000 CHF, allowing the funding of a 25%–30% submission manager position.

## 2 Activities during the calendar year 2016

*Composition of Lausanne editorial team, objectives and novelties:* On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 the incoming editorial team at the University of Lausanne started to work on

the Swiss Journal of Sociology. The team is composed of the submission manager Marion Beetschen and Felix Bühlmann the incoming editor-in-chief. During Marion Beetschen's maternity leave from January to June 2017, Virgile Pasquier will replace her as submission manager. In terms of daily work, the first months of our mandate were dedicated to the incoming manuscripts management and the preparation of two special issues, which will be published in 2017: the first special issue 43(2) is entitled "Art, work and (de)regulation" and is coordinated by André Ducret (Geneva), Andrea Glauser (Lucerne), Olivier Moeschler (Lausanne) and Valérie Rolle (London School of Economics). This special issue investigates the link between artistic and precarious employment and brings together contributions from Switzerland, France and Germany about different artistic disciplines (theatre, music, dance, literature, visual arts). The second special issue 43(3), coordinated by Rolf Becker (Bern), Ben Jann (Bern) and Eric Widmer (Geneva), explores the changes brought up by the educational expansion on the Swiss couples and families in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Filling an important research gap and engaging with a broad international research stream, the contributions of this special issue shed light on partnership instabilities, homogamy, ethnic mating or earning inequalities within Swiss couples.

More generally, the objective of the Lausanne editorial team is to carry on with the professionalization process initiated by the editorial team in Neuchâtel and to complete it with a series of innovations: the most important of these novelties concerns the publishing strategy. In order to improve the visibility of the SJS and with the aim of being included in the Social Science Citation Index in a mid-term perspective, all articles of the SJS are available as open access files on the publishing platform DeGruyter open from the issue 42(1) onwards. The articles are published under a creative commons 4.0 licence and are freely available as PDF-files on search engines such as Google Scholar. While this strategy enhances the attractiveness of the SJS for international scholars also, it does not compromise our long-term partnership with Seismo. The paper version of the SJS is still published with Seismo and is still included in the membership of the SSA. In addition, the general assembly of the SSA approved the decision to make available the whole back catalogue of the SJS as single PDF-files on the platform E-periodica (which is officially supported by the Swiss Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities). It also has to be noted that, as part of the renewal of the SSA website, the SJS now has a new and more user-friendly website on which, besides all the necessary information on the general orientation and the submission procedure, all back issues are integrally available.

Two further innovations have been made in 2016: the call for special issues will now be published every year as an open call addressing research groups from all sociological specialties and methods. The teams of guest editors should ideally include researchers from different linguistic regions of Switzerland and propose topics that are relevant to both the Swiss and the international sociological community. The

Table 2 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in the calendar year 2016

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	25	100	47	100
<b>Methods</b>				
empirical – qualitative	7	28	17	36
empirical – quantitative	15	60	18	38
empirical – mixed	1	4	4	9
theoretical	0	0	7	15
essayistic	0	0	0	0
methodological	0	0	1	2
introductory & review articles	2	8	0	0
<b>Language</b>				
German	12	48	15	32
French	7	28	14	30
English	6	24	18	38
<b>Region of origin (first author)</b>				
German-speaking Switzerland	10	40	9	19
French-speaking Switzerland	11	44	14	30
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0	0	0
Germany, Austria	3	12	9	19
France	1	4	11	23
other European countries	0	0	1	2
non-European countries	0	0	3	6
<b>Sex (first author)</b>				
female	11	44	24	51
male	14	56	23	49

Notes: Figures for “articles published” and “manuscripts submitted” cannot be compared directly as their databases are not identical. “Articles published” have been submitted in 2014 and 2015, whereas “manuscripts submitted” have been submitted in 2016.

call will be published on the website of the SJS in March of each year; the deadline for submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Together with the editorial committee, we have also decided to introduce a new debate section, which will appear in every first issue of the year. This debate, normally organised around an article, will consist of 3–4 short contributions and reactions, which take supporting, controversial or opposing perspectives on an important topic in Swiss sociology. The goal of this new section, of which the first feature is already part of this issue 43(1), is to reinforce the socio-

logical community and the scientific debate in Switzerland across methodological, linguistic and theoretical boundaries.

*Awards:* The editorial team is very pleased to announce that in the past year the CORECHED (Swiss Council for Educational Research) Prize 2016 was granted to Karin Schwiter, Sandra Hupka-Brunner, Nina Wehner, Evéline Huber, Shireen Kanji, Andrea Maihofer, and Manfred Max Bergman. Their article “Why Are Male Care Workers and Female Electricians still Rare? Gender Segregation in the Educational and Vocational Pathways of Young Adults in Switzerland” appeared in the November issue of the Swiss Journal of Sociology in 2014 (vol. 40(3), 401–428). We would like to congratulate the authors on winning this award.

*Articles published and manuscript submissions:* During the calendar year 2016 the Swiss Journal of Sociology published 24 articles, one review article and thirteen book reviews in the three issues (March, July, and November) – all three were published on time. In 2016, 47 manuscripts were submitted to the journal. A detailed overview of the published articles and manuscripts submitted can be found in Table 2. It should be noted that success rates cannot be calculated from these numbers, as the databases of published and submitted manuscripts are not identical.

*Publications:* A clear majority of the articles published in the year 2016, namely 23 out of 25, were empirical, two third of them (fifteen articles) using quantitative methods and one third using qualitative (seven articles) or mixed (one article) methods of analysis. Most articles were written in German (twelve); seven were published in French and six in English. Regarding the region of origin of the first author, ten contributions came from French-speaking Switzerland, eleven from German-speaking Switzerland, three from Germany/Austria, and one from France. With regard to the sex of the first author’s indicator, we see that equality was almost realized, with a slight dominance of published manuscript by a male first author (14 men compared to 11 women). A more detailed examination further reveals that 43% (six out of fourteen) of the articles with a male first author have been written by mixed-gender teams, whereas all articles with a female first author have been written by female teams.

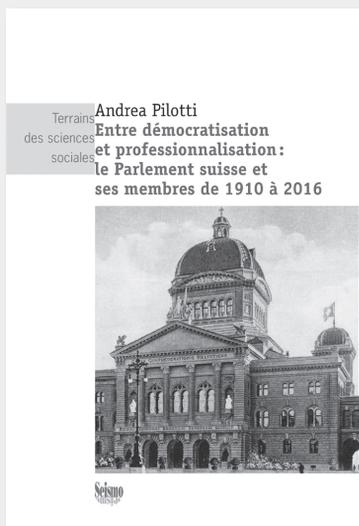
*Submissions:* The largest share of manuscript submissions was empirical quantitative (38%) and empirical qualitative (36%); 15% of submissions were theoretical, 9% were empirical articles with a combined qualitative-quantitative analytical design and 2% were methodological. With regard to language, we observe a dominance of English (38%), followed by German (32%) and French (30%). Half of the submissions came from Switzerland (30% French-speaking Switzerland, 19% German-speaking Switzerland), 23% from France, 19% from Germany and Austria, and 8% from various other countries (Belgium, China, Nigeria). Concerning the sex of the first author’s indicator, last year has been marked by a balance between female (51%) and male (49%) submissions.

*Review process:* During the review process, 124 experts were contacted and 92 agreed to write one or more reviews. Altogether the editorial team requested 146 reviews, of which 114 were completed. These figures illustrate not only the considerable effort required to carry out the review procedures on the part of the editorial team, but also the great contribution made by the editorial committee, the guest editors and the reviewers contacted. We would like to take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to all those involved in this work. A list of the reviewers' names can be found on the journal's website.

Of the 47 manuscripts submitted, 7 were desk rejected. 40 were reviewed and for 37 of them a decision was made during the calendar year. The number of reviews per manuscript varied in 2015 between two and four; in the rare cases where only two reviewers examined the manuscript a third one will look at the resubmission. The average duration of the review process (i. e., response time from submission to decision) was 84 days (2.8 months), which is clearly below our internal target of four months. 37% of the submitted (and reviewed) manuscripts were accepted; 40% of the reviewed manuscripts had to be refused (including submissions cancelled by the authors), and the remaining 23% were returned for (minor or most often major) revision, after which the revised versions of these manuscripts were reviewed once more.

*Financial support:* Enhancing the journal's professional standing requires additional financial means. Our readers partly contributed to these resources via the journal's subscription fees. In addition, the sociological institutes of various universities in Switzerland were asked for financial support. The editorial team and the Swiss Sociological Association is tremendously grateful that seven of the institutes contacted gave such financial support in 2016 (the Sociological Institute of the University of Zurich, the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Fribourg, the Department of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel, the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lausanne, the Sociology Department of the University of Geneva, the Urban Sociology Laboratory of the EPFL Lausanne, and the Sociology Seminar of the University of Basel); moreover several of these institutes have already agreed to support the journal again in 2017. These funds allow the editorial teams to meet the extra costs generated by the new open access strategy with the DeGruyter publishing platform, on the one hand, and by the moving of the Editor's office from Neuchâtel to Lausanne, on the other hand.

Neuchâtel and Lausanne, January 2017



## Andrea Pilotti

# Entre démocratisation et professionnalisation: Le Parlement suisse et ses membres de 1910 à 2016

368 pages, SFr. 49.—  
disponible aussi en accès libre sous forme numérique

Selon la Constitution helvétique, « l'Assemblée fédérale est l'autorité suprême de la Confédération, sous réserve des droits du peuple et des cantons ». Malgré cette centralité, on connaît peu l'évolution des profils des parlementaires et l'histoire des réformes du législatif fédéral. Pour combler ces lacunes scientifiques, l'ouvrage propose d'abord une analyse historique des principales réformes portant sur la démocratisation du recrutement parlementaire et sur la professionnalisation du Parlement. Pour en évaluer l'impact, l'auteur dresse ensuite un portrait collectif des membres des deux Chambres, retraçant les continuités et les ruptures dans leurs profils socioprofessionnels entre 1910 et 2016. Il en résulte une riche biographie qui permet de réfléchir concrètement à la démocratisation du Parlement helvétique et à

ses diverses mutations au fil d'un siècle. Ce travail a obtenu un prix de la Faculté des Sciences sociales et politiques (SSP) à l'Université de Lausanne ainsi qu'un prix d'encouragement de la Société suisse pour les questions parlementaires.

Andrea Pilotti est docteur en science politique de l'Université de Lausanne. Il est actuellement responsable de recherche à l'Observatoire de la vie politique régionale de l'Université de Lausanne (OVPR). Il est également membre de l'Observatoire des élites suisses (OBELIS). Il poursuit ses recherches sur le Parlement fédéral et codirige un projet de recherche, financé par le Fonds national suisse, sur les transformations urbaines de quatre villes suisses et l'évolution du profil de leurs élus locaux depuis les années 1940.