

Editorial

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Slowly the transition from the editorial team around Christian Suter at Neuchâtel to the new editorial team in Lausanne comes to an end. While the Lausanne team has already produced the two special issues on Art and Work and on Educational Expansion, Partnership and the Family in 2017, this issue is the last one for which Neuchâtel has taken the editorial responsibility. This is the occasion to thank Christian Suter, Pascale Gazareth and Nora Linder for the incredible work they did these last years for the Swiss Journal of Sociology. They have transformed the SJS into a smoothly running and well organized publication: the issues appear timely, the review process lives up to international standards of quality and transparency, and the financial situation of the journal has been stabilised. All these aspects are key and continue to be the major goal of the new editorial team: the SJS wants to be a methodologically and theoretically open journal which reflects the state of sociology in Switzerland and the place for the most important discussion of Swiss sociology. At the crossroads of English, French and German speaking sociologies, the SJS also aims to be a platform for exchanges between different sociological communities, in particular in the yearly special issue. The editorial team constantly tries, in collaboration with DeGruyter Open, to improve the indexation of the SJS. In December 2017, we were informed that the SJS is now indexed in SCOPUS, one of the largest scientific abstract and citation data base. However, our main aim remains to get included in the Social Science Citation Index. The application for this evaluation process will be one of the important endeavours of the SJS editorial team in 2018.

Exceptionally, volume 43 of the SJS was characterised by two special issues which show well the strengths of the SJS and also illustrate its openness and versatility. Issue 43(2) on *“Art, Work and (De-)regulation”* was curated by the research committee “Sociology of Art” of the Swiss Sociological Association and brought together a large array of (mostly, but not only qualitative) contributions on almost all aspects of contemporary art: music, theatre, dance, writing. It brings together French and German sociologists and links them to the discussion in Switzerland. The second special issue 43(3) on *“Educational Expansion, Partnership, and the Family”* fills an important research gap of Swiss sociology and asks how the (late and moderate) educational expansion in Switzerland influenced the formation of families and partnership. Almost all contributions of this special issue are in English, based on quantitative methods and re-situate Switzerland in the international debate on this issue. In 2017, the quality of the SJS has been recognized by the Fritz Thyssen

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Stiftung, who awarded Stefan Sacchi and Thomas Meyer with their prize for the best German written article in social sciences in 2016. The distinguished contribution «*Übergangslösungen beim Eintritt in die Schweizer Berufsbildung: Brückenschlag oder Sackgasse?*» was published in the issue 42(1) of the SJS. Congratulations to the prize winners!

In 2017 we could also recruit Julie Falcon from the University of Lausanne/ the Federal Statistical Office as new coordinator for the book reviews in French. Together with Dietmar Wetzel from the University of Basel she chooses and curates the book reviews that (normally) appear in the first and third issue of the SJS. Also the editorial board of the SJS underwent some changes. Marc Perrenoud (University of Lausanne) and Sophie Mützel (University of Lucerne) have joined the editorial board in already in 2016. In 2017 Lucio Baccaro has replaced Claudine Burton-Jeangros as representative of the University of Geneva and Luca Pattaroni has succeeded to Vincent Kaufmann as representative of the EPFL. We would like to thank Claudine and Vincent warmly for their long service to the SJS. Welcome Lucio and Luca on the editorial board of the SJS!

One of the crucial current challenges for the Swiss Journal of Sociology is the transition to digital and open access publication. The Swiss National Science Foundation has decided that in 2020 all publication funded by the SNFS have to be published in open access mode. Also the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest funder of the SJS, has now a clear open access strategy and asks its journals to comply with the standards of open access publication. The enormous costs of licences for the journals of international editors such as Elsevier, Francis & Taylor, Wiley or Sage have led to a situation where publically funded universities not only pay for the production of scientific results, but also have to pay again for making these results available to its members. In addition, open access allows researchers to be more visible and to make their work and their results known more quickly and to a broader public. At the same time, digitalisation also becomes an important issue. Web-based journals become a real alternative and several disciplines of the social sciences in Switzerland publish their journal either partially (*Studies in Communication Sciences*) or entirely as a web journal (*Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics*). For the moment, the SJS appears both as hard copy (edited by Seismo Verlag) and as PDF on the platform DeGruyter Open. The question whether we want to become a web only journal will certainly have to be discussed these next years. It would allow us to speed up the publication process and to reduce costs; at the same time a paper version could still be published for those who still want to read the SJS on paper. For the time being, the members of the Swiss Sociological Association have decided to digitalise the back catalogue of the SJS on the platform E-periodica, hosted by the library of the ETH Zurich. In the last months we have negotiated the details of this deal with E-periodica and we are happy to announce

Table 1 Swiss Journal of Sociology: Articles published and manuscripts submitted in the calendar year 2017

	Articles published		Manuscripts submitted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	22	100	33	100
Methods				
Empirical qualitative	7	32	12	36
Empirical quantitative	13	59	15	45
Empirical mixed	0	0	4	12
Theoretical	2	9	2	6
Essayistic	0	0	0	0
Methodological	0	0	0	0
Language				
German	8	36	6	18
English	10	45	19	58
French	4	18	8	24
Region of origin (first author)				
German-speaking Switzerland	5	23	11	33
French-speaking Switzerland	9	41	10	30
Italian-speaking Switzerland	0	0	0	0
Germany	5	23	0	0
France	2	9	1	3
Other European countries	1	5	4	12
Non-European countries	0	0	7	21
Sex (first author)				
Female	12	55	14	42
Male	10	45	19	58

that soon (probably in the course of 2018) the whole back catalogue of the SJS will be available as single PDFs on www.e-periodica.ch.

Articles published and manuscripts submitted: during the calendar year 2017 the Swiss Journal of Sociology published 22 articles, 7 book reviews and one debate in three issues (March, July and November) – while issues 1 and 2 were published on time, issue 3 appeared a month late (due to problems with the printing company). In 2017, 33 manuscripts were submitted, which is less than in 2015 and 2016 with 47 submissions each. A detailed overview of the submitted manuscripts and published articles can be found in table 1. Please note that the rejection rate cannot be deduced from a comparison of submissions and publications in the same year.

Publications: In principle the Swiss Journal of Sociology is open to both theoretical and empirical contributions. As a matter of fact, 20 of 22 articles are

empirical articles and only two are theoretical. 13 of these empirical articles use quantitative methods, only 7 are based on qualitative methodologies. None of the published articles in 2017 uses a mixed-method design. A share of 45% of the articles are in English, 36% are in German and 18% in French. We are happy with this proportion, as one of our aims is to increase the international visibility of the Swiss Journal of Sociology through a higher share of English papers. Of course, German and French will remain important languages for the SJS. In terms of gender, the proportion between men and women are relatively balanced, with 55% women and 45% men (first authors).

Submissions: In 2017, 33 articles have been submitted to the SJS. Among these submitted articles, 45% use quantitative methods, 36% use qualitative methods, 12% use mixed methods and the two remaining papers were theory based. The trend towards a higher share of articles written in English is also visible in the submissions: 58% of submissions were in English, 24% in French and 18% in German. This is not (only) because the SJS receives more papers from authors who do not speak French or German: also Swiss sociologists increasingly submit papers in English. In terms of gender, we received 58% of all submissions from men and 42% from women.

Review process: During the review process in 2017, 81 experts were contacted and 67 agreed to write one or several reviews. We would like to thank all our reviewers for their efforts and the great quality of reviews we are able to give the authors submitting manuscripts to the Swiss Journal of Sociology. Of the 33 manuscripts submitted, 7 were desk rejected (without external reviewing). 26 were reviewed and for 22 of those, a decision was made during the calendar year. All the regular manuscripts were reviewed by 3 anonymous reviewers, while in the case of the contributions to the special issues, 2 reviews by external experts were completed by a third review by one of the guest editors. The average duration of the review process was 70 days, i. e. slightly more than two months. When not including the desk rejected papers (for which the decisions are taken quickly), the average duration was 82 days. This is still clearly below our target of four months (120 days). 15 of the 33 papers submitted in 2017 had to be refused, 9 were accepted. The remaining 9 are still under review or were returned for minor or major revisions.

Financial support: The Swiss Journal of Sociology is funded by a yearly support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences and by the yearly subscription fees of the members of the Swiss Sociological Association. In addition, the sociological institutes of all Swiss universities were asked for financial support. The editorial team and the Swiss Sociological Association would like to express their gratitude to the sociological institutes that supported us so generously in 2017: University of Basel, University of Fribourg, University of Geneva, University of Neuchâtel, University of St. Gall, University of Zurich and the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne. These funds allow the editorial team to meet the extra costs

generated by the new open access strategy and the retro-digitalisation of our back catalogue with E-periodica.

We are looking forward to the volume 44 of the Swiss Journal of Sociology in 2018. Besides a special issue entitled “Vulnerability in Health Trajectories: Life Course Perspectives,” we will publish two regular issues. No doubt your – hopefully – numerous submissions will contribute to the advancement of sociological knowledge and a lively debate within Swiss sociology also in 2018.

Lausanne, December 2017