

Editors' Report for 2017

Odd-numbered years represent a time of relative stability at the editorial offices of the *Journal of Economic History*. William Collins is in the second year of his four-year term as non-Eurasian editor, and Ann Carlos in her final year as senior editor and Eurasian editor. Eric Hilt continues his work as book review editor for the Americas, while Carol Shiue continues as book review editor for the rest-of-the-world. The JOURNAL is fortunate in having Lily Welch continue as the Journal Editorial Assistant and Sally Sztrecska as Production Editor.

We have benefited greatly from the expert guidance and advice of our Board of Editors and the nearly 200 referees who have contributed their time and expertise to maintaining and enhancing the quality of the JOURNAL. We are extremely grateful for and cannot overestimate their efforts. “Graduating seniors” at the Board are Hoyt Bleakley, Carlos Marichal, Chiaki Moriguchi, and Kirsten Wandschneider. We sincerely thank them for their service. The incoming board members include Latika Chaudhary, Johan Fourie, Robert Margo, John Tang, and Jessica Vechbanyongratana. Each will serve a four-year term. Numerous scholars contributed book reviews, including longer surveys, and a number of synthetic pieces. The editorial office is grateful to all who have worked on behalf of the JOURNAL over this past year.

The number of submissions to the JOURNAL is shown in Table 1. In pulling different information from the ScholarOne system, the editorial office realized that the number of new submissions was being systematically undercounted for some years now. So, as economic historians, we show in Table 1 the previously published data and the amended data for the last seven years. Essentially, we were undercounting the number of submissions by about 20 papers in each year for the last four years. These are papers that were submitted in June of the relevant year. For details, please contact the editors. Looking at the trend, the number of submissions jumped four years ago and has been trending down. Overall, the submission rate shows a slight decline in the number of submissions. Last year saw 162 submissions to 170 in the previous year. The publication ratio displayed is the number of refereed papers and notes published in the current year divided by the number of new papers submitted in the previous year. In 2016–2017, we published 32 articles. Because of the re-counting of submissions, the publication ratio has fallen to about 0.18 but remains in line with the recent past. Table 2 reports the response-time statistics for the corresponding sample. To place the numbers into context, our goal is to have a decision back to the author within 90 days. This year’s performance has been roughly on par with other years for new submissions, with a median response time of 74. The median response time for all submissions has fallen to 50 days. A small number of papers have taken much longer. We apologize to authors of pieces experiencing long delays, some of which were the result of ScholarOne system issues and a very small number of tardy reviewers. We continuously work to reduce the time for this small number of authors taking into consideration that we are, of course, concerned about the quality of the response, not just its speed.

The distributions of submissions are documented below. These data reflect the older accounting of the submissions data. They will be recalculated in next year’s Editors’ Notes; that said, we do not anticipate much change. We show the data for eras in Table 3 and for topics in Table 4. The automated part of the paper submission system stopped reporting on regions for a period of time, but that feature has recommenced. This, however, means that we do not have consistent comparisons over the last six years. What is currently available is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 1
SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION RATES

	Published September to June issues	New Submissions, Old Method	New Submissions, New Method	Publication Ratio Pt/St-1
2010–2011	32	152	151	
2011–2012	32	153	152	0.21
2012–2013	31	144	143	0.20
2013–2014	32	159	158	0.22
2014–2015	32	153	177	0.20
2015–2016	31	149	170	0.18
2016–2017	32	139	162	0.18

TABLE 2
RESPONSE TIME STATISTICS

Year	Decision Time (in days)		Mean	Median
	Minimum	Maximum		
All submissions				
2010/2011	1	273	73	76
2011/2012	1	232	77	79
2012/2013	2	237	80	78
2013/2014	4	243	76	75
2015/2015	1	235	78	78
2015/2016	1	277	60	50
New				
2010/2011	1	273	82	84
2011/2012	1	232	84	85
2012/2013	2	237	86	85
2013/2014	4	243	80	79
2014/2015	1	235	80	78
2015/2016	1	277	74	74
2016/2017	1	306	73	75

Coverage remains broad with a continued growth in the twenty-first century as might be expected. The number of submissions on the twentieth century continues its surge passed the nineteenth century. Shown in Table 4, Growth, Political Economy, Demography and Labor are topic areas that dominated submissions.

Book reviews are an important component of the JOURNAL, and we sincerely thank the many reviewers. We also remind our membership to have their press send a copy of any new books to the relevant book review editor. The JOURNAL has also sought “review and reflection” synthetic articles, extended book reviews, and roundtable book reviews when appropriate. We published two Reviews and Reflections articles in Volume 77:

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS BY ERA, MULTIPLE SELECTIONS
PER SUBMISSION POSSIBLE

Eras	2010– 2011	2011– 2012	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017
Pre-seventeenth century	24	26	27	22	28	24	15
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	52	48	40	39	43	24	27
Nineteenth century	93	99	93	84	92	56	74
Twentieth century	87	94	109	87	104	78	83
Twenty-first century	11	11	15	16	12	15	16
Not applicable	6	6	2	2	2	3	4
Total	273	284	286	250	281	200	219
	Percent						
Pre-seventeenth century	8.8	9.2	9.4	8.8	10.0	12.0	6.8
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	19.0	16.9	14.0	15.6	15.3	12.0	12.3
Nineteenth century	34.1	34.9	32.5	33.6	32.7	28.0	33.8
Twentieth century	31.9	33.1	38.1	34.8	37.0	39.0	37.9
Twenty-first century	4.0	3.9	5.2	6.4	4.3	7.5	7.3
Not applicable	2.2	2.1	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.8

“Plague and Lethal Epidemics in the Pre-Industrial World” by Guido Alfani and Tommy Murphy in the March 2017 issue and “Economic History, Historical Analysis, and the ‘New History of Capitalism’” by Eric Hilt in the June 2017 issue.

Readers will recall that at the 2013 meetings, the EHA board of trustees approved a policy to make publication conditional on archiving the data sufficient to replicate the results in the accepted articles. The new rules read:

“It is the policy of the *Journal of Economic History* to publish papers only if the data used in the analysis are clearly and precisely documented and are readily available to any researcher for purposes of replication. Authors of accepted papers must archive, prior to publication, the data, programs, and other details of the computations sufficient to permit replication. These will be archived at ICPSR and a stable URL link to these data will be published with each article. The Editors should be notified at the time of submission if the data used in a paper are proprietary or if, for some other reason, the requirements above cannot be met.

As soon as possible after acceptance, authors are expected to deposit their data, programs, and sufficient details to permit replication with ICPSR. Questions regarding any aspect of this policy should be forwarded to the Journal Editor.”

TABLE 4
DISTRIBUTION OF SUBMISSIONS BY TOPIC, MULTIPLE SELECTIONS
PER SUBMISSION POSSIBLE

Topics	2011– 2012	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017
Agriculture	16	18	24	19	8	10
Demography	13	18	25	24	25	22
Growth	39	40	26	39	36	28
History of thought	2	5	3	4	7	3
Industry	19	19	20	19	8	7
International trade, finance	24	30	31	20	15	20
Labor	26	25	22	23	24	31
Money and macro	23	21	17	23	16	11
Other	23	11	22	18	10	12
Political economy	45	42	36	35	31	41
Private finance, capital markets	28	23	19	19	12	12
Public finance	16	14	17	17	12	9
Technology	13	10	9	13	11	11
Urban and regional	9	14	10	10	13	13
Total	296	290	281	291	228	230
	Percent					
Agriculture	5.4	6.2	8.5	6.7	3.5	4.3
Demography	4.4	6.2	8.9	8.2	11.0	9.6
Growth	13.2	13.8	9.3	13.8	15.8	12.2
History of thought	0.7	1.7	1.1	1.3	3.0	1.3
Industry	6.4	6.6	7.1	6.7	3.5	3.0
International trade, finance	8.1	10.3	11.0	10.0	6.6	8.7
Labor	8.8	8.6	7.8	8.0	10.5	13.5
Money and macro	7.8	7.2	6.0	8.0	7.0	4.8
Other	7.8	3.8	7.8	6.2	4.4	5.2
Political economy	15.2	14.5	12.8	12.0	13.6	17.8
Private finance, capital markets	9.5	7.9	6.8	6.5	5.2	5.2
Public finance	5.4	4.8	6.0	5.8	5.2	3.9
Technology	4.4	3.4	3.2	4.1	4.8	4.8
Urban and regional	3.0	4.8	3.6	3.5	5.7	5.7

All new submissions from 1 January 2016 required authors to post data and replication files to maintain and advance the JOURNAL's efforts to ensure transparency and scholarly integrity. A few papers submitted prior to this date are still in process and those authors have been strongly encouraged to follow the new policy. A branded page can be found with openICPSR and depositors can submit files into openICPSR per the instructions available at: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/files/openICPSR/JEH-deposit-instructions.pdf>.

The editorial office and ICPSR continue to work to enhance the interface.

TABLE 5
DISTRIBUTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Regions	2010– 2011	2011– 2012	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	*2014– 2015	**2015– 2016	2016– 2017
Africa	7	7	8	8	3	2	13
Asia	21	22	38	19	4	6	28
Australia, New Zealand	1	3	8	3	3	0	5
Eastern Europe/Russia	14	9	12	15	2	3	13
Great Britain	44	34	27	36	10	2	29
Latin America	11	20	15	19	4	1	6
Middle East	9	7	12	7	2	3	9
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	1	1	0	4	0	1	1
United States and Canada	76	68	65	65	16	10	48
Western Europe	64	77	65	56	14	6	49
Not applicable	7	10	9	3	0	3	2
Total	255	258	259	235	58	37	203
	Percent						
Africa	2.7	2.7	3.1	3.4	5.2	5.4	6.4
Asia	8.2	8.5	14.7	8.1	6.9	16.0	13.8
Australia and New Zealand	0.4	1.2	3.1	1.3	5.2	0.0	2.5
Eastern Europe/Russia	5.5	3.5	4.6	6.4	3.4	8.1	6.4
Great Britain	17.3	13.2	10.4	15.3	17.2	5.4	14.3
Latin America	4.3	7.8	5.8	8.1	6.9	2.7	3.0
Middle East	3.5	2.7	4.6	3.0	3.4	8.1	4.4
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	2.7	0.5
United States and Canada	29.8	26.4	25.1	27.7	27.6	27.0	23.6
Western Europe	25.1	29.8	25.1	23.8	24.1	16.2	24.1
Not applicable	2.7	3.9	3.5	1.3	0.0	8.1	1.0

*2014–2015 Region data are from 1 July 2014–14 October 2015.

**2015–2016 Region data are from 18 March 2016–30 June 2016.

Referees for 2016 were:

Olivier Accominotti	Cihan Artunç	Victoria Bateman
Philipp Ager	Ragui Assaad	Joerg Baten
Gani Aldashev	Gareth Austin	Brian Beach
Sylvia Allegretto	Rudiger Bachmann	Jessica Bean
Bob Allen	Martha Bailey	Asaf Berstein
Carlos Alvarez Nogal	Andy Baker	Hoyt Bleakley
Pamfili Antipa	Richard Baker	Matthias Blum
Leticia Arroyo Abad	Gerben Bakker	Gustavo Bobonis

Howard Bodenhorn	Ruben Enikolopov	Henning Hillmann
Lars Boerner	Steven A. Epstein	Richard Hornbeck
Karol Borowiecki	Katherine Eriksson	Erik Hornung
Maristella Botticini	Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez	Elise Huillery
Leah Boustan	Thibault Fally	Robert Inklaar
H. V. Bowen	David Feeny	Kris Inwood
George Boyer	James Feigenbaum	Alejandra Irigoin
Fabio Braggion	James Fenske	Douglas Irwin
Stephen Broadberry	Alan Fernihough	Denis Ivanov
John Brown	Daniel Fetter	David Jacks
Liam Brunt	Price Fishback	Andrew Jalil
Justin Bucciferro	Jonathan Fisher	Matthew Jaremski
Carsten Burhop	Caroline Fohlin	Taylor Jaworski
Charles Calomiris	Mauricio Font	Morten Jerven
Gareth Campbell	Johan Fourie	Joost Jonker
Forrest Capie	Ewout Frankema	Gisella Kagy
Leonard Carlson	Carola Frydman	Morgan Kelly
Celeste Carruthers	Dustin Frye	Lionel Kesztenbaum
Youssef Cassis	David Galenson	Zorina Khan
Benjamin Chabot	Kenneth Garbade	Sukoo Kim
David Chambers	Leigh Gardner	Christopher Kingston
Eric Chaney	Samuel Garrido	Carl Kitchens
Latika Chaudhary	R. Richard Geddes	Edward Kosack
Gregory Clark	James Gerber	Sumner La Croix
Karen Clay	Michela Giorcelli	Ryan Lampe
David Clingingsmith	William N. Goetzman	Tim Larsen
Patrick Coe	Rafael Gonzalez-Val	Tomas Larsson
Lisa Cook	Kathryn Graddy	Changkeun Lee
Lee A. Craig	Regina Grafe	Sibylle Lehmann
Neil Cummins	Amanda Gregg	Adrian Leonard
Ludo Cuyvers	Paul Gregory	Margaret Levenstein
Tomas Cvrcek	Avner Greif	Byron Lew
Aditya Dasgupta	Ben Groom	Frank Lewis
Alan de Bromhead	Pauline Grosjean	Joshua Lewis
Melissa Dell	Richard Grossman	Dan Li
Catherine Desbarats	Catherine Guirkinger	Amy Liu
Livio Di Matteo	Federico Gutierrez	Jonas Ljungberg
Mark Dincecco	Michael Haines	Jason Long
Jordi Domenech	Gillian Hamilton	Dean Lueck
Fabian Drixler	Christopher Hanes	Seth Mallios
Nicolas Duquette	Leslie Hannah	Robert Margo
Alan Dye	C. Knick Harley	James Markusen
Zvi Eckstein	Timothy Hatton	Catherine Massey
Marc Egnal	Philipp Hauber	Anne E. C. McCants
Tamer el-Leithy	Joshua Hausman	John J. McCusker
Shari Eli	Scott Hemphill	Terra McKinnish
Jari Eloranta	Carlos Eduardo Hernandez	Christopher Meissner

- Guy Michaels
 Grant Miller
 Melinda Miller
 David Mitch
 Carolyn Moehling
 Jon Moen
 Alexander Moradi
 Petra Moser
 Carl Mosk
 Jose Moya
 Tomas Murphy
 Aldo Musacchio
 Suresh Naidu
 Joana Naritomi
 Larry Neal
 Todd Neumann
 Dennis Novy
 Nathan Nunn
 Cormac Ó Gráda
 Trevor O'Grady
 Donal O'Neill
 Kevin O'Rourke
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 Sonja Opper
 Craig Palsson
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 Nishith Prakash
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 Roger Ransom
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 Riad Rezzik
 Paul Rhode
 Gary Richardson
 Evan Roberts
 Hugh Rockoff
 Jonathan Rose
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- Peter Rousseau
 Jared Rubin
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 John Sedgwick
 Edson Severnini
 Gary S. Shea
 Allison Shertzer
 Katharine Shester
 Carol Shiue
 Richard Sicotte
 Petra Sijpesteijn
 James Simpson
 David P. Sims
 Michael Sinkinson
 Steven Smith
 Kenneth A. Snowden
 Yannay Spitzer
 Steven Sprick Schuster
 Richard Steckel
 William Summerhill
 Richard Sutch
 Patrick Svensson
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 Peter Temin
 Sharon Tennyson
 Michèle Tertilt
 Jose Tessada
 Werner Troesken
 John Turner
 Andrey Ukhov
 Bas van Leeuwen
 Marlous van Waijenburg
 Jan Luiten Van Zanden
 Jordi Vidal-Robert
 Jacob Vigdor
 Carlos Villarreal
 Nico Voigtländer
 Tamas Vonyo
 Ilya Voskoboinikov
 Daniel Waldenstrom
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 Patrick Wallis
 Lorena Walsh
- Randall Walsh
 Marianne Wanamaker
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