ISQ Annual Report, 2017

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February 23, 2018

Welcome to the 2017 annual report for *International Studies Quarterly*. As per International Studies Association policy, this document mainly covers the period of 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. This is the penultimate report for the current team, and we will begin the transition to the new editorial team over the summer.

A significant number of manuscripts submitted during each "journal year" remain under consideration at the time of the annual report. This means that *first*, some of the data that we provide remains provisional and, *second*, this report includes updated information for the 2015-2016 period covered in our previous report. Finally, this report includes some analysis using pooled data from the last four years. However, unless otherwise noted, all figures pertain to the 2016-2017 reporting period.

Highlights from this year's report include:

- *ISQ* received 665 first-time (original) submissions from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. This constitutes an increase of around 6.5% from the previous period, a lower rate of growth than reported in recent years.
- Our submissions included 548 research articles, 83 research notes, two responses to published pieces, 20 theory notes, and 12 special-issue submissions. Virtually all of the increase in number of submissions came in the form of research and theory notes and special issues.
- The proportion of co-authored manuscripts reached an all-time high. 48% of manuscripts submitted in 2016-2017 had at least 2 authors. The last record had been 40% in 2014-2015. Co-authored manuscripts continue to perform significantly better in the review process.
- The sex breakdown of submissions continues to equalize, albeit slowly. 42% of manuscripts submitted had at least one female author, a substantial increase from as last year (38%). The percentage of manuscripts with only female authors decreased to 22% (compared to 25% in 2015-2016 and 16.7% in 2014-2015).
- Around 27% of manuscripts had PhD students as authors, either alone (18%) or co-authoring with other PhD students (1%) or faculty (8%).
- As of January 5 2017, all but 4 manuscripts submitted in the 2016-2017 period had received a first decision. Of original manuscripts (548), about 44.5% (244) were declined without external review, virtually unchanged from the previous year (and the first year under the current editorial team). 12% (66) were offered revise-and-resubmit decisions after initial review; 43.2% (237) were declined after initial peer-review.
- The editorial team has only accepted a small number of manuscripts submitted since October 2016. As of 5 Jan 2017, 17 (2.6%) manuscripts still awaited a final decision after initial peer review. Of those that have received decisions after review 44.3% (287) were declined after one or more rounds of review, 5.7% (37) were being revised for resubmission, and 5.4% (35) were accepted or in conditional acceptance stage.
- Although we saw a 1.7 percentage point increase in the rate of editorial rejections from the previous year, we also saw a 1.1 p.p. decrease in the rate of articles ultimately declined after review, adding up to only 0.6 percentage point increase in total rejections.
- ISQ received manuscripts from authors based in 69 countries, which signals continued diversification (12 more countries than in 2015-2016). However, 339, or 51% of the manuscripts, came from scholars based in the United States. This is a slight increase compared to 49.7% in the previous year, possibly signaling a reversion or stabilization of trends observed in the last few years. Submissions from English-speaking

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countries still account for about 68.7% of total submissions. The other 10 countries with the most submissions were the UK (83, 12.7%), Germany (33, 5%), Israel (20, 3%), Canada (18, 2.7%), Australia (15, 2.3%), Norway (14, 2.1%), Denmark, Netherlands, Turkey (10 each, 1.5%), and Sweden (9, 1.4%).

Important updates from the 2015-2016 report include:

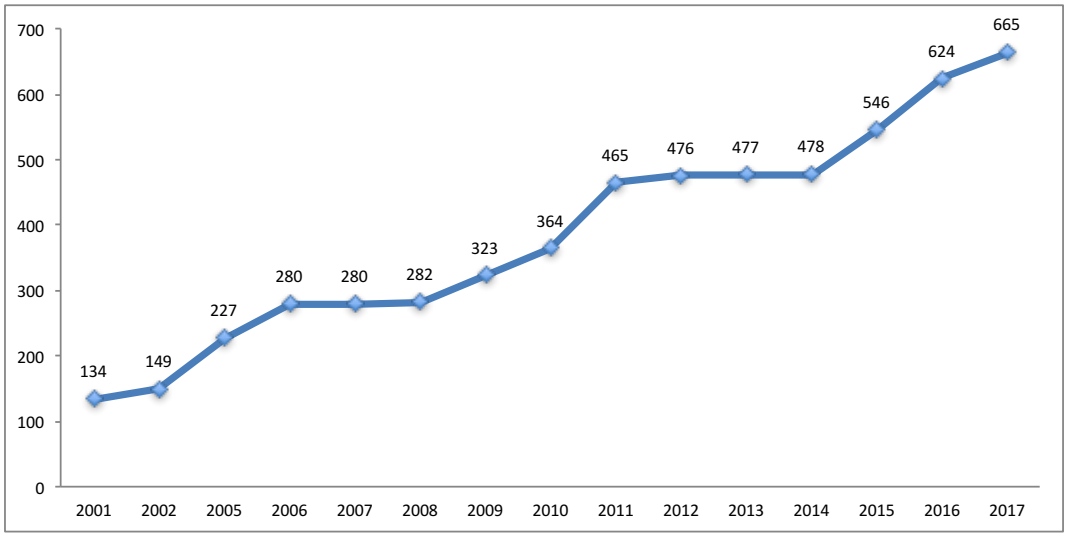
- *ISQ* accepted 64 manuscripts initially submitted during the 2015-2016 journal year. This represents an approximate acceptance rate of 10.3%. We accepted 60 manuscripts subsequent to revise-and-resubmit decisions. 82 manuscripts received revise-and-resubmit offers as a first decision. Thus, the "conversion rate" for revise-and-resubmit decisions stands at 73% during 2015-2016.
- Of these 64 manuscripts, 9 were solo-authored by female scholars (15%), 20 by male authors (33%), 6 co-authored by at least one female scholar and one male scholar (10%), 24 co-authored exclusively by male scholars (39%), and 2 (3%) were co-authored exclusively by female scholars. This adds up to a 13 percentage point decrease in the share of accepted manuscripts with female authors from 2014-2015, despite a 4 percentage point increase in the share of total submissions that include at least one woman.
- Eleven countries are represented among the accepted manuscripts. However, 43 (67%) of the manuscripts accepted came from authors based in the United States. Manuscripts originating from the United States comprised 49% of all manuscripts submitted, suggesting, *ceteris paribus*, a significant "overrepresentation" of US-based scholars. The UK (8, or 12.5%), Germany (3, or 4.5%) and Canada, and Australia (2, or 3%, each) constitute the only other countries with more than one manuscript accepted.

1. Manuscript Flow

During the 2016-2017 period, *ISQ* processed 655 first-time submissions.

For figure 1, we combined available historical data on original submissions with data in ScholarOne. A variety of considerations suggest caution for any comparison before 2013.[1]

Figure 1: Number of Original Manuscripts Submitted



Original submissions for 2017 included 540 research articles (82.4%), 83 research notes (12.7%), two responses to published pieces (.3%), 20 theory notes (3%), and 10 special-issue pieces (1.5%). As of December 5th 2017, *ISQ* accepted 23 of these manuscripts (3.5%), offered conditional acceptances to 10 (1.5%), declined 283 (43.3%) after

[1]Details of our procedures and methodology appear in the 2014 report. In brief, we restrict these numbers to first-time submissions and emphasize issues of missing data and how we approached them.

review, and desk rejected 289 (44.2%). 49 (7.5%) had outstanding revise-and-resubmit decisions, were awaiting reviews, or were undergoing internal processing.

Figure 2 shows the percentage breakdown of these decisions. In terms of manuscript submission type, *ISQ* accepted 23 research articles, and 9 research notes, one theory note. Table 1 presents the overall breakdown of decisions by manuscript type in more detail. Table 2 does the same for the 2015-2016 period.

Figure 2: Latest/Final Decision, 2016-2017

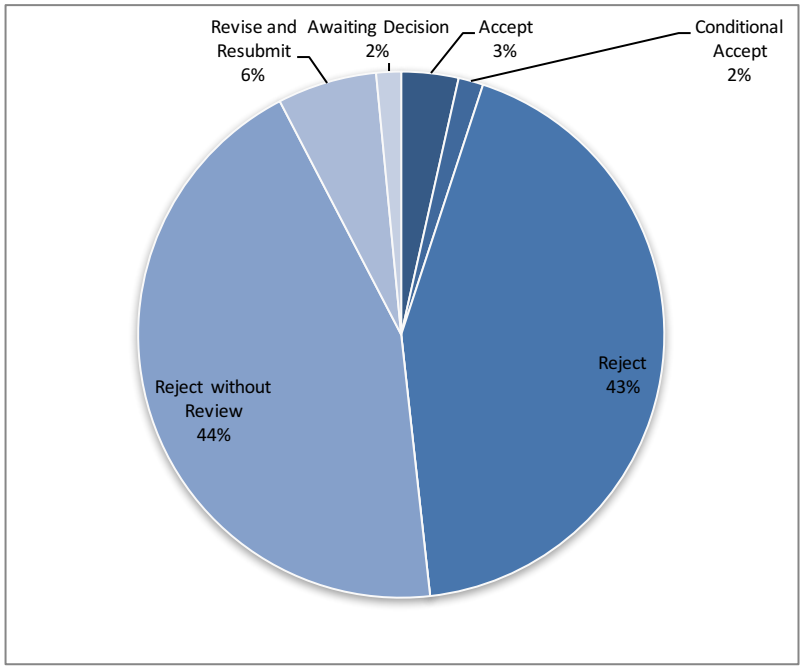


Table 1: Percentage Breakdowns of Types of Submissions and Final Decisions, 2016-2017

	Accept	Conditional accept	Reject	Desk Rej.	R&R	Awaiting Decision	Total
Original Article	16	7	235	244	31	7	540
%	3.0%	1.3%	43.5%	45.2%	5.7%	1.3%	
Research Note	6	3	29	36	6	3	83
%	7.2%	3.6%	34.9%	43.4%	7.2%	3.6%	
Response to Published	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	
Theory Note	1	0	8	9	2	0	20
%	5.0%	0.0%	40.0%	45.0%	10.0%	0.0%	
Special Issue	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
	0%%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	

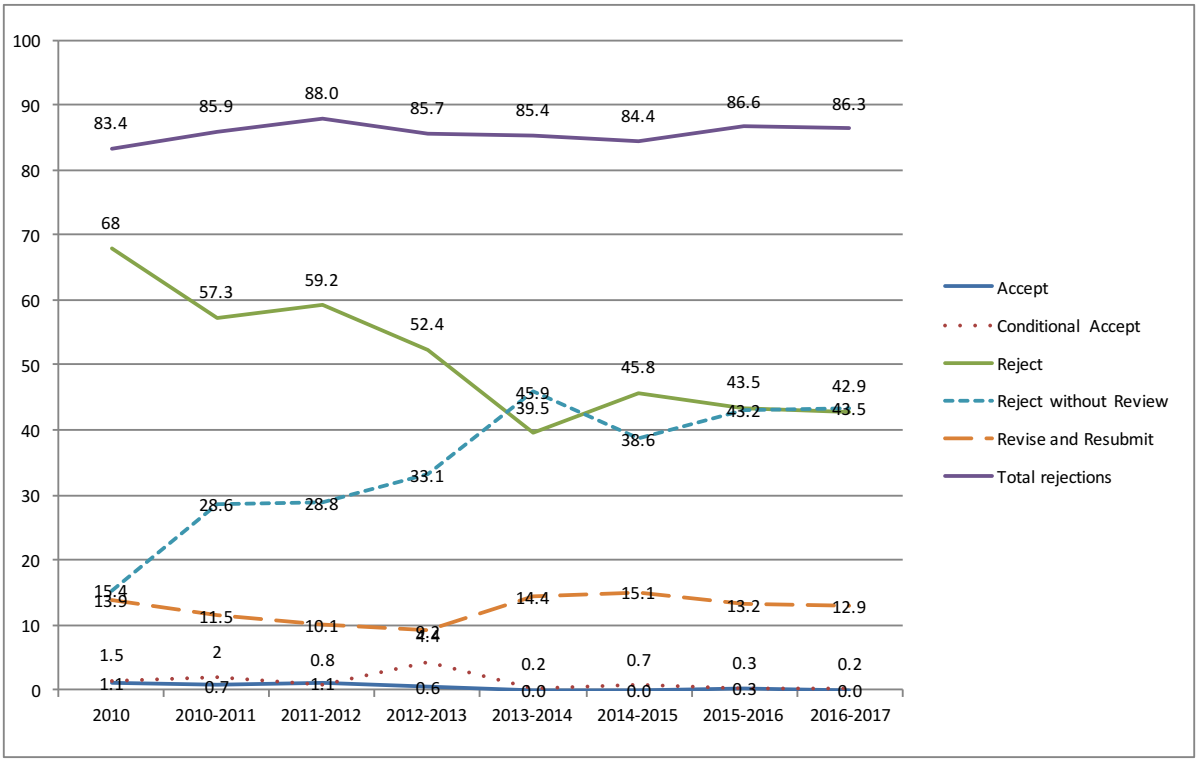
Table 2: Percentage Breakdowns of Types of Submissions and Final Decisions 2015-2016

	Accept	Conditional accept	Reject	Desk Rej.	R&R	Awaiting Decision	Total
Original Article	51	2	248	235	5	6	547
%	9.3%	0.4%	45.3%	43.0%	0.9%	1.1%	
Research Note	7	0	28	27	0	0	62
%	11.3%	0.0%	45.2%	43.5%	0.0%	0.0%	
Response to Published	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%	
Theory Note	3	0	6	6	0	0	13
%	23.1%	0.0%	46.2%	46.2%	0.0%	0.0%	

Figure 4 shows all latest decisions logged in ScholarOne from 2010-2017, broken down by the time frame for annual reports.[2]

Readers may find the comparative trends of interest.[3] The desk-reject rate increased again after a slight dip. The rejection-after-review rate continues to move in the opposite direction of the desk-rejection rate, resulting in roughly consistent total-rejection rates. Figure 3 presents the first-round decisions. Figure 4 presents the latest decisions.

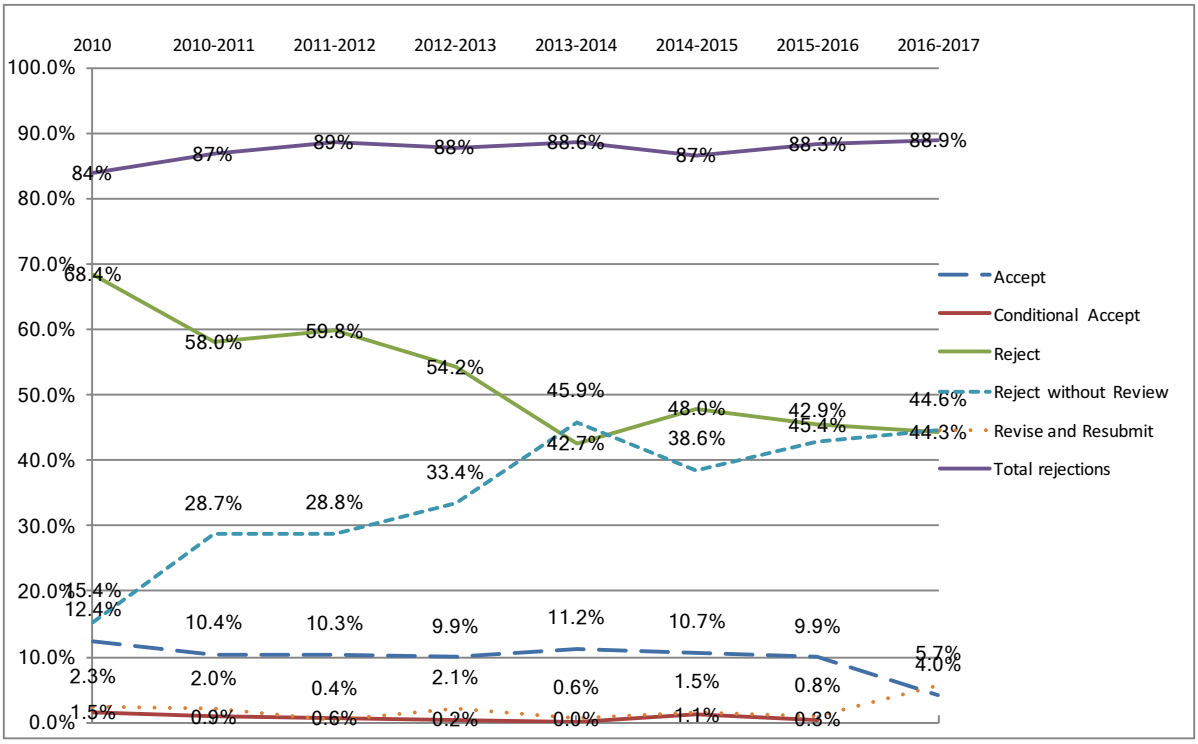
Figure 3: Distribution of First Decisions for All Original Manuscripts (with Decisions) Submitted During 'Journal Year'



[2]For purposes of additional comparison, it might prove appropriate to total "conditional acceptances" and "revise and resubmit" manuscripts prior to 2013-2014. That is, we relabelled "minor revisions" as "conditional acceptances" in the system and use that category almost exclusively for manuscripts requiring only style-and-presentation changes.

[3]We calculated percentages for 2016-2017 based on the number of manuscripts with decisions. 40 manuscripts submitted in the period were still awaiting a first decision when we downloaded the data from the system.

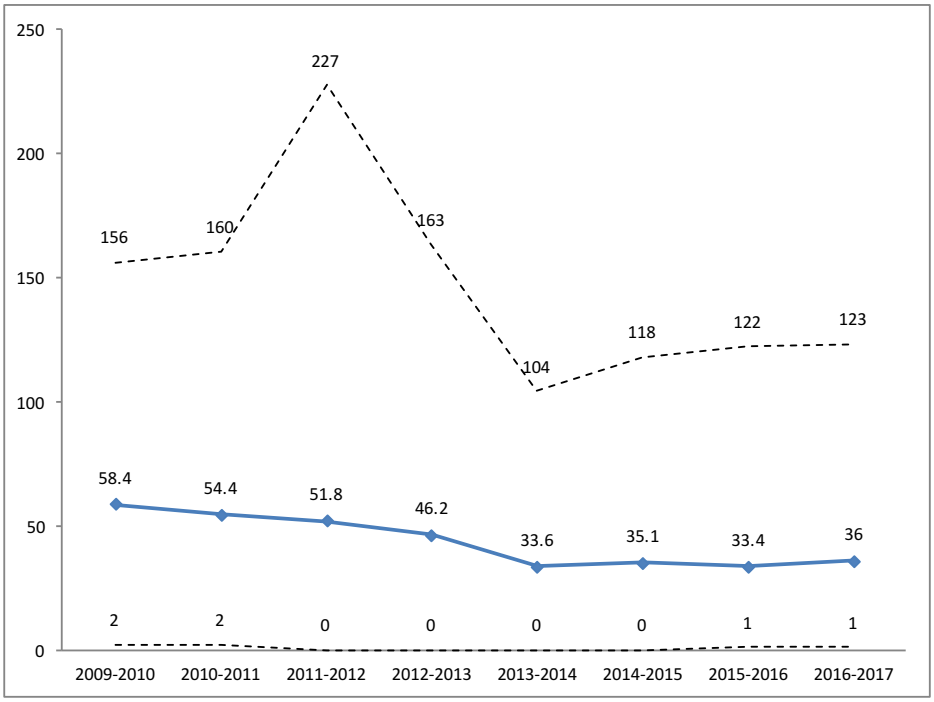
Figure 4: Distribution of Latest Decisions for All Original Manuscripts (with Decisions) Submitted During 'Journal Year'



2. Turnaround Time

ISQ reports by previous teams provided average turnaround time—the length of time between receipt of a manuscript and the transmission of a decision letter—for all manuscripts. Minimum, maximum, and median turnaround times can be found in Figure 5. As we noted in prior reports, two factors might artificially drive down aggregate turnaround time when comparing with prior teams. First, our increased desk-rejection rate may improve aggregate performance. Second, the current team's use of "conditional accepts" for style-and-presentation changes may artificially reduce turnaround time.

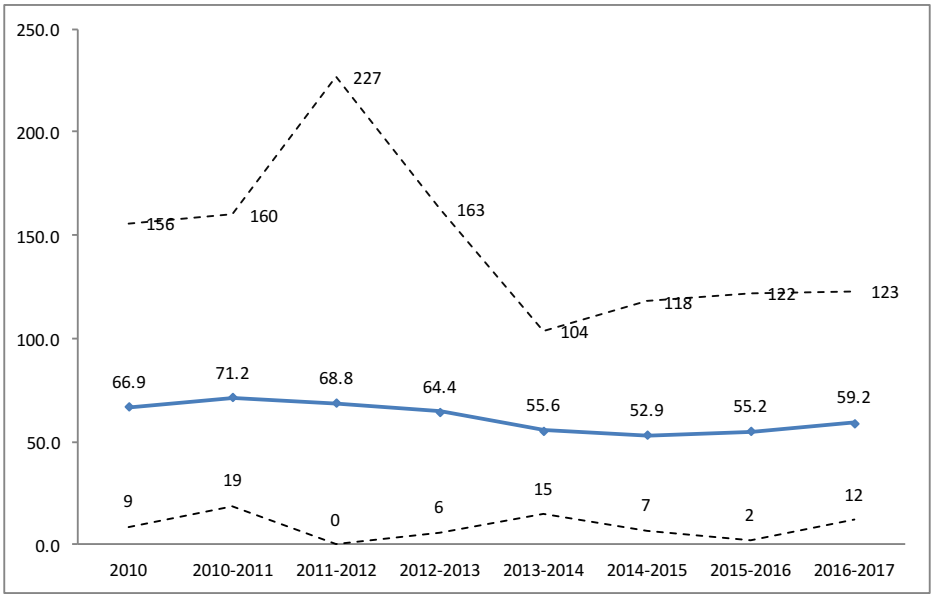
Figure 5: Average Number of Days from Submission to Decision



Dotted lines: minimum and maximum times

A more reliable approach for comparing turnaround time involves disaggregating time-to-decision by decision type and manuscript status. The average turnaround time for desk rejections in 2016-2017 was a relatively fast seven days, same as the previous year. Manuscripts sent out for review took an average of 59 days (slightly longer than the previous year, which averaged 55 days from submission to decision. See figure 6). Revise-and-resubmit decisions averaged the longest, 66 days; rejections averaged a bit less time, at 57 days. Why are we taking longer? We think there are two reasons. First, the continued growth in submissions has created strain on the editorial team. Second, many of the editors are simply getting tired as we approach the end of our tenure. The Lead Editor, in particular, has been less assiduous about constantly monitoring the state of play and proactively heading off problems arising from tardy referees.

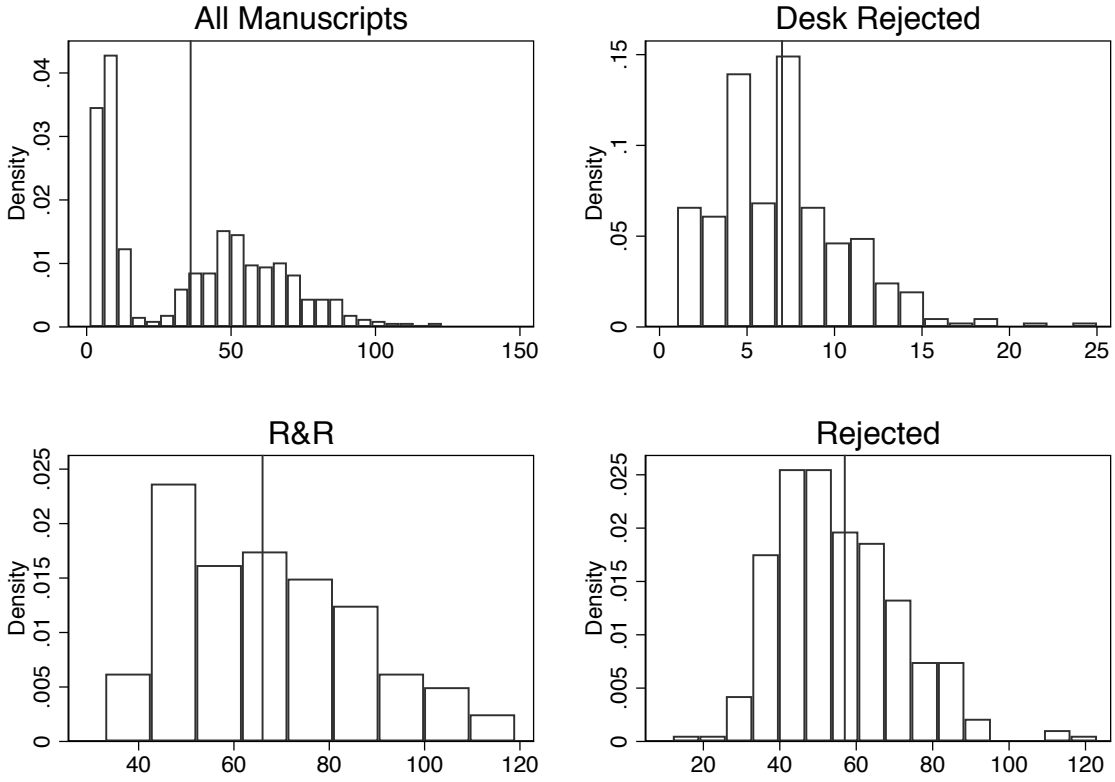
Figure 6: Average Number of Days for Decision after Review



Dotted lines: minimum and maximum times

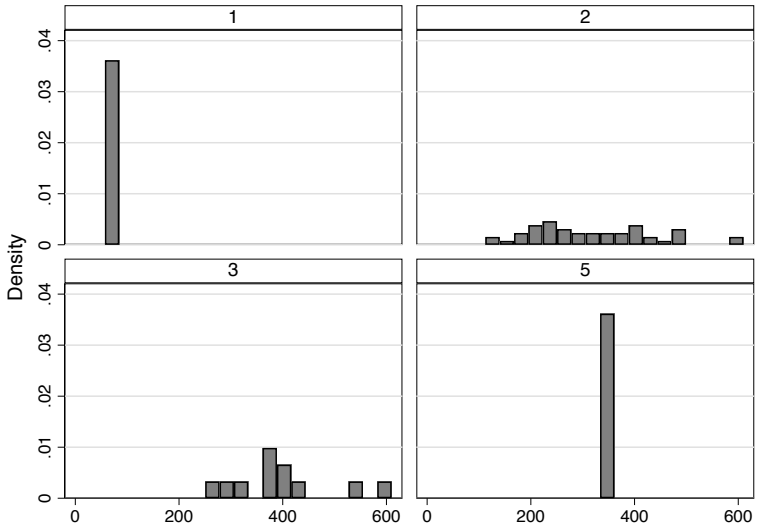
Too much focus on the averages obscures substantial variation within each category. To better illustrate the extent of that variation, we provide histograms of the turnaround time. Figure 7 shows turnaround time for a) all manuscripts, b) desk rejections, c) revise-and-resubmit decisions on first-time submissions, and d) submissions sent for review but got rejected. These exclude Special Issue submissions, for which decisions operate on a different schedule. Editors only decide on a Special Issue submission after receiving reviews for all manuscripts in the Special Issue. The average turnaround time for Special Issue submissions was 98 days, substantially more than the mean time for other rejected manuscripts.

Figure 7: Turnaround time by First Decision, 2016-2017



What about the time to final decision depending on the number of revise-and-resubmits a piece goes through? That is, how long does it take for successful manuscripts to work through the review system? Figure 8 provides this for 2015-2016. We lack enough revised manuscripts with final decisions in 2016-2017 for a meaningful comparison, but will provide that information in the 2018 report.

Figure 8: Time to Final Decision, Accepted Manuscripts, by # of Revisions, 2015-2016



3. Author Demographics

The breakdown of 2016-2017 original submissions by sex appears in Figure 9. 141 submissions had all-female teams (21.5%), compared to 24.5% the year before. 384 (58.6%) had all-male teams, about four percentage points less than the year before. This means that we received considerably more manuscripts co-authored by men and women (20%, compared to 13% in 2015-2016). In other words, of the 271 manuscripts with at least one woman (single or co-authored), 48% are co-authored with men. Last year that number was around 35%. Only 37 (5.6% of all manuscripts, 13.6% of manuscripts with female authors) were co-authored just by women. Figure 10 shows the aggregate breakdown for 2015-2016.

Figure 9: Submissions by author sex 2016-2017

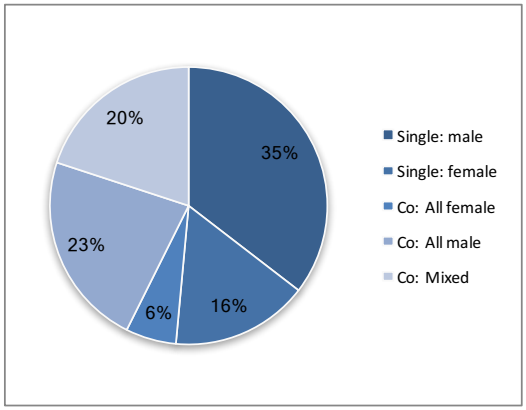


Figure 10: Submissions by author sex 2015-2016

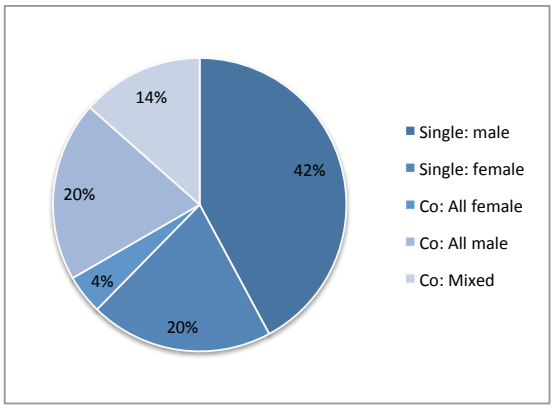


Figure 11 provides the breakdown for the sex of authors by the initial decision (as of Dec 2017). Since the introduction of triple-blind review in May 2016 we no longer find statistically significant differences in performance between manuscripts with and without female authors (manuscripts with female authors used to be less likely to receive desk rejections).

Figure 11: Initial Decisions by Author Sex

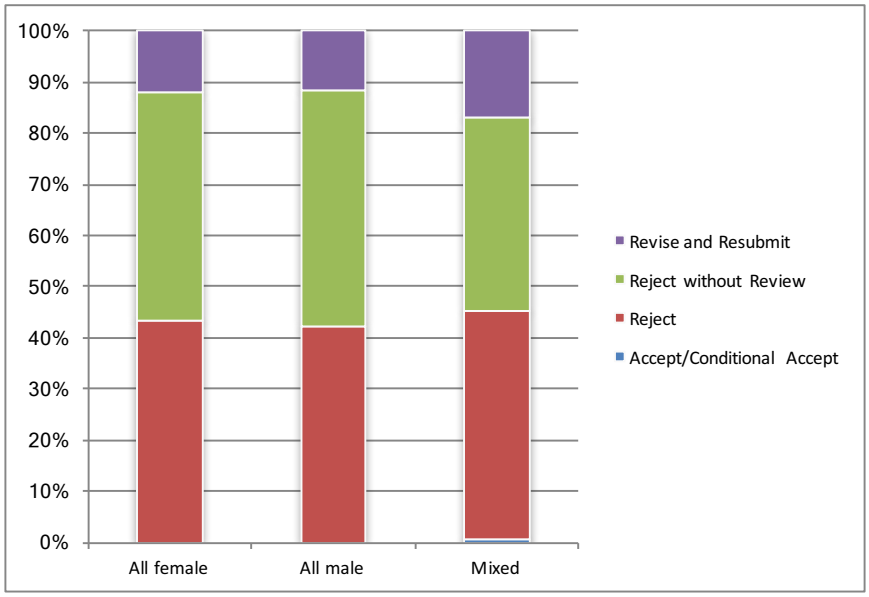
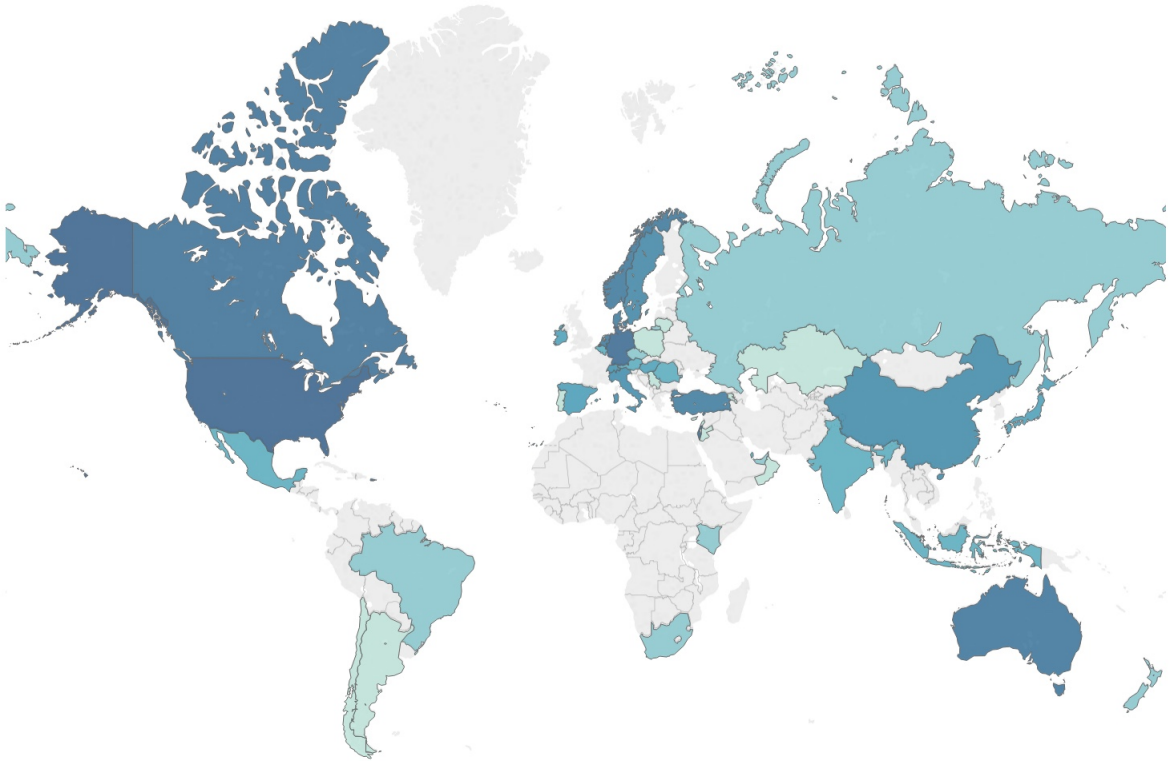


Table 3 and figure 12 present information on the country where the submitting author is based.

Table 3: Submissions by Country of Submitting Author

Country	n.	%	Country	n.	%	Country	n.	%
United States	339	51%	Hungary	4	0.6%	South Africa	2	0.3%
United Kingdom	83	12.5%	Ireland	4	0.6%	Taiwan	2	0.3%
Germany	33	5%	Japan	4	0.6%	Armenia	1	0.2%
Israel	20	3%	Austria	3	0.5%	Chile	1	0.2%
Canada	18	2.7%	Belgium	3	0.5%	Cyprus	1	0.2%
Australia	15	2.3%	Hong Kong	3	0.5%	Jordan	1	0.2%
Norway	13	2.0%	India	3	0.5%	Kazakhstan	1	0.2%
Denmark	10	1.5%	Indonesia	3	0.5%	Lebanon	1	0.2%
Netherlands	10	1.5%	Mexico	3	0.5%	Lithuania	1	0.2%
Turkey	10	1.5%	Romania	3	0.5%	Luxembourg	1	0.2%
Sweden	9	1.4%	Qatar	3	0.5%	Oman	1	0.2%
China	8	1.2%	Brazil	2	0.3%	Poland	1	0.2%
Italy	7	1.1%	Czech Republic	2	0.3%	Portugal	1	0.2%
Korea, Republic of	6	0.9%	Iran	2	0.3%	Serbia	1	0.2%
Singapore	6	0.9%	Kenya	2	0.3%	United Arab Emirates	1	0.2%
Switzerland	6	0.9%	New Zealand	2	0.3%	Argentina	1	0.2%
Spain	5	0.8%	Russian Federation	2	0.3%			

Figure 12: Map of Submissions, 2016-2017 (darker color represents greater share of submissions)



It is clear that the majority of manuscripts come from authors based in the US. The UK is a distant second with 12.5% of submissions. This distribution is reflected in acceptance rates. Table 4 shows the countries of submission for manuscripts accepted in 2014-2015. Table 5 shows the countries of manuscripts R&Rd in 2016-2017.

Table 4: Manuscripts Accepted in 2015-2016, by Country of Submission

Country	n.	%
United States	43	70.5%
United Kingdom	8	13.1%
Germany	3	4.9%
Australia	2	3.3%
Canada	2	3.3%
Italy	1	1.6%
UAE	1	1.6%
Israel	1	1.6%
Norway	1	1.6%
Japan	1	1.6%
Chile	1	1.6%

Table 5: Manuscripts R&Rd in 2016-2017, by country of submission

Country	n.	%
United States	61	70.9
United Kingdom of Great Britain and N..	5	5.8
Canada	4	4.7
Australia	3	3.5
Norway	3	3.5
Denmark	2	2.3
Turkey	1	1.2
Belgium	1	1.2
Germany	1	1.2
Israel	1	1.2
Japan	1	1.2
Lithuania	1	1.2
Russian Federation	1	1.2
Sweden	1	1.2

Table 6 breaks down submissions by the degrees of all authors (only includes manuscripts for which all authors report their degrees).[4] Over the last four years, we observe a substantial increase in the share of manuscripts including at least one graduate student (from 19.4% in 2013-2014 to 27.4% in 2016-2017), as a result of increased submissions by individual students (14.7% to 18.5%), groups of students (0.06% to 1.1%), and groups of students and faculty (4% to 8%). As we note below, manuscripts submitted by PhDs are more likely to receive positive decisions than those submitted by students.

Table 6: Authors' Degrees

	No.	Percent
Missing	8	1.2
Coauthored PhD and Student	53	8
Coauthored PhDs	105	15.8
Coauthored Students	7	1.1
Single PhD	371	55.8
Single Student	121	18.2

[4]This missingness is not random. Hand-coding of some author data suggests that students are more likely to fail to report their degrees than faculty, which potentially introduces a slight bias in the data.

4. Submissions: A More Granular View

Table 7 breaks down manuscripts by self-reported substantive areas of research. Table 8 shows the regions of interest. Table 9 shows the distribution of manuscripts by aggregating methods baskets. All categories are self-reported by the authors. There was a small but insignificant increase in the share of "purely statistical" manuscripts and a correspondingly small decrease in "purely qualitative" manuscripts from last year. There was also a small decrease in the number (and share) of manuscripts employing formal theory. Overall, the distribution of methods seems relatively stable, with perhaps a slight upward trend in manuscripts employing both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Table 7: Submissions by Substantive Issue Area*

International Security	293
International Relations Theory	193
International Political Economy	163
Foreign Policy	155
Comparative Politics	143
International Organization	126
Human Rights	101
Political Sociology	53
Methodology	50
Political Psychology	36
Philosophy of Science	11

*Multiple issue areas allowed

Table 8: Submissions by Region of Interest

Global	357	European Union	28
United States	95	Latin America	25
Middle East/North Africa	70	Russia	22
Western Europe	64	Southeast Asia/Oceania	22
Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union	44	North America	16
China	43	South Asia	14
Transregional	41	India	9
Sub-Saharan Africa	38	Pakistan	9
None	36	Japan	6
East Asia	31	Afghanistan	4

*Multiple regions allowed

Table 9: Submissions by Self-reported Methods

	2016-2017		2015-2016		2014-2015	
Methods Basket			n.	Percent	n.	Percent
Formal	4	0.6%	14	2.2%	4	0.7%
Qual	257	39.2%	252	40.4%	212	39.0%
Qual+Formal	7	1.1%	5	0.8%	4	0.7%
Quant	282	43.1%	256	41.0%	241	44.3%
Quant+Formal	10	1.5%	9	1.4%	14	2.6%
Quant+Qual	100	15.3%	88	14.1%	66	12.1%
Quant+Qual+Formal	5	0.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.6%

We continue to find that co-authorship is becoming more common, corresponding for almost half of all submitted manuscripts this year. Figure 13 shows the uptrend in co-authorship as percentage of total submissions. Table 10 provides information about the fate of single-authored and co-authored manuscripts. Co-authored manuscripts

are about 25% more likely to be sent out for review. While we do not yet have enough data to be confident in this analysis, the introduction of blind editorial screening of manuscripts does not seem to have affected the relationship between co-authorship on review outcome. Figure 14 presents the results of a simple bivariate logistic regression estimating the odds of being sent out for peer review for single- versus co-authored submissions, pooling data from 2013-2016. The independent variable is coded as 0 for manuscripts with one author and 1 for co-authored manuscripts. The dependent variable is coded 0 if the manuscript is desk rejected, 1 if it is sent for peer review.

Figure 13: Percentage of Co-authored Manuscripts

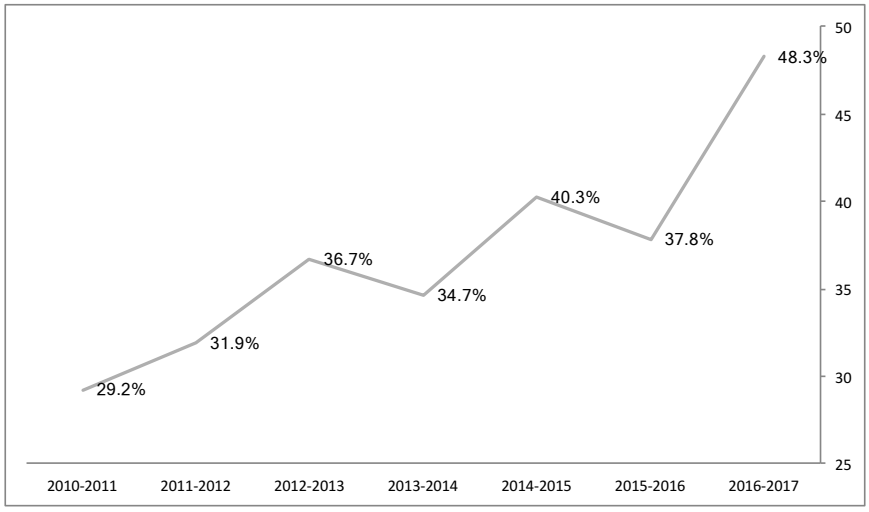
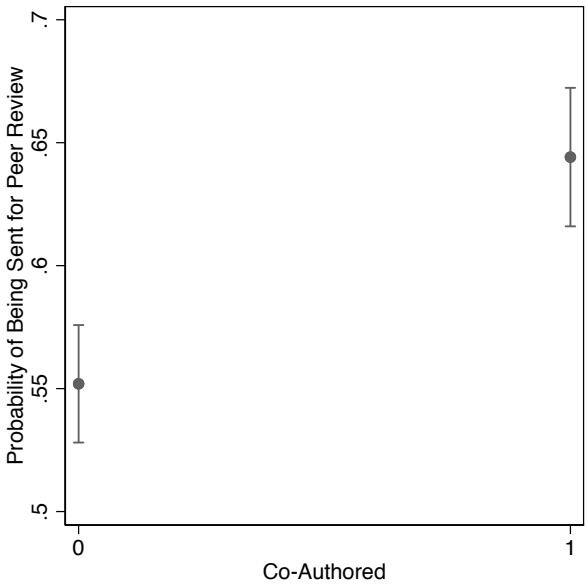


Table 10: Decisions on Single- and Co-authored Manuscripts

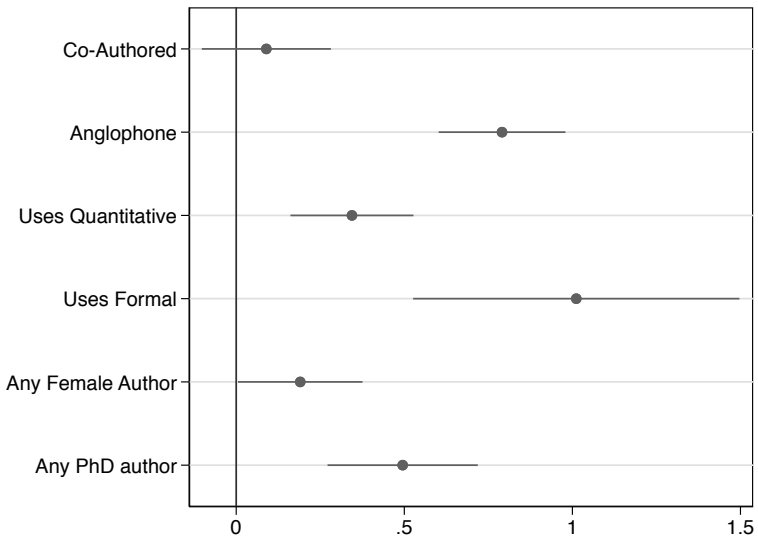
2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017		
Desk Rejected											
Co-authored	0	1		0	1		0	1		0	1
0	50.81%	49.19%	0	60.00%	40.00%	0	52.58%	47.42%	0	51.91%	48.09%
1	60.84%	39.16%	1	63.64%	36.36%	1	64.41%	35.59%	1	60.19%	39.81%
Pearson chi2 = 4.3818 Pr = 0.036			Pearson chi2 = 0.7324 Pr = 0.392			Pearson chi2 = 8.4 Pr = 0.004			Pearson chi2 = 4.5 Pr = 0.03		
R&R*											
0	75.32%	24.68%	0	80.31%	19.69%	0	80.11%	19.89%	0	79.66%	20.34%
1	70.30%	29.70%	1	68.12%	31.88%	1	73.88%	26.12%	1	74.47%	25.53%
Pearson chi2 = 0.7884 Pr = 0.375			Pearson chi2 = 6.42 Pr = 0.011			Pearson chi2 = 1.73 Pr = 0.188			Pearson chi2 = 1.39 Pr = 0.239		
*R&R = 0 means Reject after first round of review											
Final Decision after Review											
Co-authored	Accept	Reject		Accept	Reject		Accept	Reject			
0	14.67%	85.33%	0	13.83%	86.17%	0	14.80%	85.20%			
1	25.25%	74.75%	1	27.74%	72.26%	1	21.62%	78.38%			
Pearson chi2 = 4.3644 Pr = 0.037			Pearson chi2 = 11.533 Pr = 0.003			Pearson chi2 = 2.69 Pr = 0.101					

Figure 14: Marginal effect of Co-Authorship on Probability of Being Sent for Review, 2013-2016



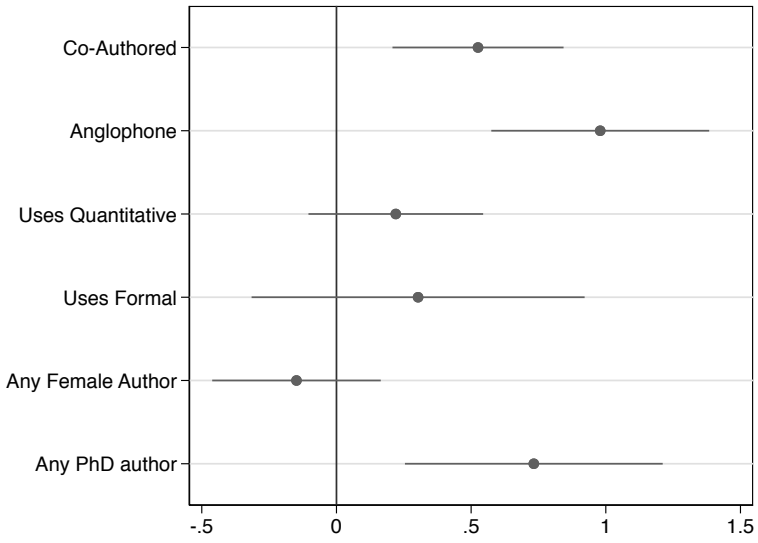
Of course, co-authorship is potentially correlated with other factors. Indeed, manuscripts using quantitative methods tend to have multiple authors. It also may be associated with geographical location and authors' sex. All of these may affect—or at least are associated with—editorial decisions and/or reviewer recommendations. In previous years, we conducted multivariate statistical analysis of editorial and peer-review decisions, and found that manuscripts using quantitative methods were considerably more likely to be sent for review, but not more successful in subsequent stages. Submissions originating in the anglophone world are not only the majority, but they were also much less likely to be desk rejected. Repeating this analysis using the latest data yields different results. Co-authorship, when controlling for other characteristics, is no longer a predictor of positive editorial decisions at the initial stage, while country of origin, gender, degree, and methods continue to be predictors. However, as we show below in figure 16, co-authored manuscripts, manuscripts with at least one author with a PhD, and manuscripts submitted by anglophone authors are still more likely to ultimately be accepted, while quantitative and formal methods are not associated with higher likelihood of acceptance. Note that the presence of a female author may reduce the probability of acceptance. This is troubling, but we do not know why this is the case. *ISQ* is currently part of a larger project to assess the effects of sex on editorial outcomes, and the analysis we've done for that project suggests no statistically signifant effect of sex.

Figure 15: Multivariate Logit, Effect on Probability of Being Sent for Review



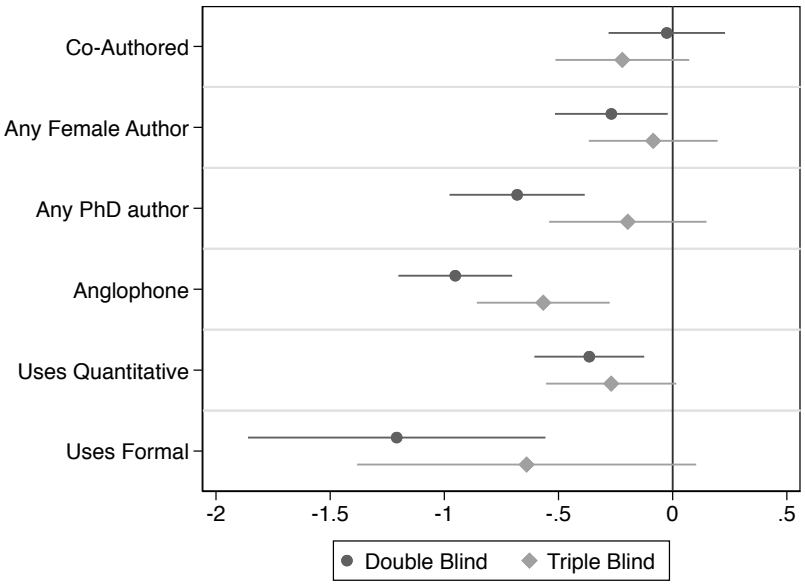
(a) Not reported: year fixed effects

Figure 16: Multivariate Logit, Effect on Probability of Being Accepted



(a) Not reported: year fixed effects

Figure 17: Effect on Desk Rejection, Before and After Blind Editorial Screening (reported as "triple blind" below)



5. Reviewer Information

One of our initiatives involves building granular data on the peer-review process. We ask a variety of demographic questions as part of ScholarOne's user-account profiles. Unfortunately, response rates remain low, particularly for users with pre-existing accounts or users who declined invitations to review. We therefore hand-coded the sex of all active users (reviewers and authors) in the 2013-2017 period, leaving in place existing answers for those who filled out this part of the demographic battery. This not only allowed us to derive the data in Figure 9, but also provided some insight into the possible role of reviewer sex in the peer-review process.

Table 11: Reviewers' sex

Reviewer stats	2016-2017	
	Freq.	Percent
Male	759	67.41%
Female	367	32.59%
Total	1126	100

Table 12: Response to Request by Reviewer Sex, 2013-2017 pooled

	Male	Female	Total
Decline	491	244	735
	21.9%	23.5%	22.4
Agree	1751	794	2,545
	78.1%	76.5%	77.6
Total	2,242	1038	

Pearson chi2(1) = 1.05 Pr = 0.3

As shown in Table 11, during 2016-2017, 67.4%) of *ISQ*'s reviewers were male, while 32.6% were female. Unlike previous years, we didn't find a statistically significant difference in the the rate at which men and women agree to review. Including the new data in the the 2013-2017 pooled data, as seen in Table, 12, we also no longer find that men are more likely to accept invitations to review. We also note that our reviewer pool has become slightly less US-centric over the years. In 2012-2013, 77% of reviewers were based in the US. In 2014-2015 that number

came down to 72.4% and in 2015-2016 to 70% and in 2016-2017 to 68.3%. Scholars based in the broader category of English speaking countries made up 73.8%, 71% and 77.4% in the three previous years.

We continue to investigate other ways in which reviewer gender, rank, national origin, and other attributes affect the review process. Results from a preliminary analysis including newly collected data will be available in the next annual report.

5.1 Is R2 harsher?

As 13 and 14 show, not only is R2 not more likely to recommend a negative outcome, they are, if anything, a little more generous in their recommendations[5] However, we cannot exclude the possibility that R2's reviews are harsher in tone or in substance.

Table 13: Is R2 meaner?

Positive Recommendation?	R1	R2	R3	R4
No	50.04	49.81	41.28	36.84
Yes	49.96	50.19	58.72	63.16
Total	1,313	1,313	533	19

Table 14: Manuscripts with only two reviewers

Positive Recommendation?	R1	R2
No	56.41	52.95
Yes	43.59	47.05
Total	780	780
χ^2 = 1.9, P = 0.17		

6. *ISQ* Online

In 2016-2017, we ran six symposia focused on direct engagement with specific articles. We also started to produce all symposia as single downloadable PDFs, available at *ISQ*'s dataverse. This was at our official target but below what we would have preferred.

7. External Metrics

As we note every year: "when journals meet or exceed expectations, their editors trumpet their standing in Journal Citation Reports (JCR). When they fall short, editors downplay them. Before discussing metrics, we want to stress that we strongly oppose any effort to game *ISQ*'s rankings or otherwise adopt editorial policy for the purpose of improving *ISQ*'s position. *ISQ* should strive to best fulfill its mandate as a broad international studies publication as laid out by the ISA, regardless of whether or not doing so improves its position in specific metrics of journal quality, impact, and significance. *ISQ*'s impact factor lags behind expectations and its reputation-based rankings."

In the 2011 TRIP survey (PDF), *ISQ* ranked second–behind *International Organization*–for the question of what journal publishes articles with the greatest influence in the field. In the latest survey, it ranks fourth after *International Organization*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *International Security*.

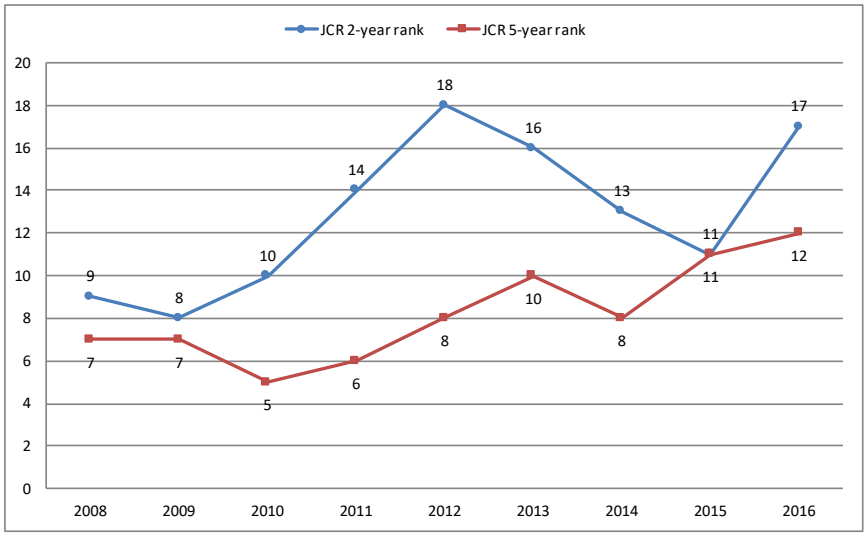
According to Google Scholar Metrics, *ISQ* ranks fifth for h5-index and ties for fourth for h5-median (as of February 21, 2018) for English-language "Diplomacy and International Relations" journals.[6]

[5]Though the difference of proportions is not statistically significant.

[6]Google: "h5-index is the h-index for articles published in the last 5 complete years. It is the largest number h such that h articles published in 2012-2016 have at least h citations each" and "h5-median for a publication is the median number of citations for the articles that make up its h5-index." Note that the former metric clearly favors journals that publish a greater

In the 2016 Journal Citation Report, *ISQ* earned a two-year impact factor of 1.925 and a five-year impact factor of 2.512. This placed it at 17th and 12th, respectively, in the category of "International Relations" on 65 citable items in 2016 and 63 in 2015 (128 total), and 322 for the five-year impact factor. *ISQ* ranked fourth in the 2016 JCR Eigenfactor Score for the same category.

Figure 18: Journal Citation Report Rankings



8. Editorial Matters

The Georgetown team underwent personnel changes during the year. Leonard Seabrooke shifted from being a Senior Editor to being an Associate Editor. Jana von Stein and Scott Wolford became Associate Editors. Andrew Szarejko replaced Alexandra Stark as co-managing editor. Ole Jacob Sending stepped down as an Associate Editor. We list the current editorial membership in Appendix A.

9. Issues and Challenges

9.1 Backlog

We inherited a significant backlog, but one much diminished by the efforts of the prior editorial team. These included adjusting the font size of the journal and moving to two columns per page. These adjustments helped to reduce the prior backlog. They also made it easier to handle an increased number of submissions while maintaining a relatively stable acceptance rate. In December 2015, we published one—and the last—article accepted by the prior team.

We estimate the current backlog in a number of different ways. The two main variables are what we consider "in the pipeline" for publication and how many articles we expect to publish per issue.

The most liberal interpretation of the first variable includes all conditionally-accepted manuscripts, as we expect a near 100% conversion rate to acceptance. If we publish 14 articles per issue—for a total of 56 articles per volume—then our backlog as of 21 Feburary stands at 5.14 issues. If we restrict this number to accepted manuscripts, then the current backlog stands at 4.14 issues for the same target. At 16 articles, which is more typical of current publication rates, the numbers stand at 4.5 and 3.63, respectively. However, the March issue is imminent. Once that is published, then the backlog at 14 is 3.93 and 2.93 issues, and at 16 articles per issue is 2.56 and 3.44 issues. In general, this is in line with the prior report, which was released right after the publication of an issue. Note that the journal will either need to publish more articles or reduce its acceptance rate to cope with continual increases in submissions. We are currently on track for a 14.2% increase. If that number holds, the journal will receive around 748 submissions in the 2017-2018 reporting period.

number of articles–such as *ISQ*.

A major challenge for the journal involves the length of time it takes to conduct in-house copyediting. This process is handled by two PhD student managing editors and *ISQ*'s Lead Editor. It focuses on two aspects of accepted manuscripts: (1) the state of citations and references and (2) style-and-presentation matters related to our efforts to make articles more accessible and readable. This number has fluctuated between 2 months and 4 months over the 2016-2017 period.

We saw significant delays in the release of issues during 2016-2017. The initial problems were on the production side, and involved typesetting and copyediting, both of which were introducing errors. Our graduate-student editors responded by checking manuscripts at additional stages of the process. These problems have, we think, been resolved. But we dropped the ball on turning around our review of copyedited and typeset manuscripts, which bottlenecked the production process. This was, ultimately, the fault of the Lead Editor, who lost track of where the delays were originating. We should be mostly back on track this year, and we hope to hand over a journal that is meeting its publication targets. Note that this will likely negatively affect the journal impact factor, and we want to let readers know the fault lies with us, not the team that will be running the journal at the time.

9.2 Data Collection

As we reported in the prior years, our ability to collect large-N data on the peer-review process remains dependent on users' willingness to provide demographic information. We recognize that some users consider the questions onerous, intrusive, or both. Some users may not even be aware of their existence. We supply "decline to answer" options for all questions, and reaffirm our commitment to keeping answers confidential. We also want to highlight that this information plays no role in the editorial process. We hope more users will enter their data, so that it will be available both for internal assessments and, in anonymous form, for those interested in studying the peer-review process for international studies journals.

9.3 The Citation Gap

Recent findings of a "citation gap" for female scholars remain a matter of debate and concern. Conventional wisdom also holds that such a gap extends to other demographic categories. Our approach focuses on using the editorial process–and prompting reviewers–to highlight appropriate scholarship that deserves acknowledgment in *ISQ* articles. To improve upon and complement this practice, we asked the members of our editorial board to volunteer to form a "task force" on this issue, which initiated activities about 18 months ago. However, this process did not produce new recommendations that we could take action on. We intend to work closely with the incoming team to discuss our experiences so that they can address this issue in light of our experience.

9.4 Encouraging Broader Intellectual Engagement

The Georgetown-anchored team made a commitment to encouraging cross-talk among different research communities. We remain concerned that our efforts have fallen short, for reasons similar to those that undermine our efforts to address "citation gap" concerns. Our templates include a "prompt" for editors to note broader literatures of relevance to papers, and individual editors are making more of an effort to consult with one another on this matter.

9.5 Diversity of Submissions

The data presented still paint a bleak picture for both the number of submissions and the fate of submissions originating outside of the "Global North." Only 51 submissions this year (7.8%) came from non-OECD countries, up 1 p.p. from last year. The "task force" on global diversity initiated activities two summers ago, but their activities have been rendered moot by the development of an ISA-wide task force.

9.6 Theory Notes

10. Acknowledgements

The complete 2016-2017 masthead for *ISQ* appears in Appendix A. We want to particularly acknowledge our current Managing Editors, Madison Schramm and Andrew Szarejko , as well as our outgoing Managing Editor

Alexandra Stark. In addition to thanking all those listed in Appendix A–and specifically the editorial board–we want to extend our special thanks to the ISA staff, the ISA publications committee, the terrific team at Oxford University Press, and all those who submit to and review for *ISQ*. Georgetown University's Department of Government, Mortara Center for International Studies, the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, and the University of Texas at Austin provide generous financial and in-kind support for the journal. American University provides essential financial and in-kind support for *ISQ* Online. Dani Nedal and Madison Schramm assisted with the production of this report.

11. Appendix A: *ISQ* Masthead, 2016-2017

ISQ Current Editorial Team

Anna Agathangelou, York University
Janice Bially Mattern, National University of Singapore
Pinar Bilgin, Bilkent University
Ruth Blakeley, University of Sheffield
Tanja Borzel, Freie Universitat Berlin
Sarah M. Brooks, Ohio State University
Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, University of Chicago
Ajin Choi, Yonsei GSIS
Michael Colaresi, Michigan State University
Christian Davenport, University of Michigan
Richard Deeg, Temple University
Thomas Diez, University of Tubingen
A. Cooper Drury, University of Missouri
David M. Edelstein, Georgetown University
Charlotte Epstein, University of Sydney
Henry Farrell, George Washington University
M. Taylor Fravel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Virginia Page Fortna, Columbia University
Annette Freyberg-Inan, University of Amsterdam
Ismene Gizelis, University of Essex
Stacie E. Goddard, Wellesley College
Emilie Hafner-Burton, University of California, San Diego
Natasha Hamilton-Hart, University of Auckland Business School
Lene Hansen, University of Copenhagen
Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Northwestern University
Jef Huysmans, The Open University
Jacques Hymans, University of Southern California
Naeem Inayatullah, Ithaca College
Leslie Johns, University of California, Los Angeles
Kelly Kadera, Iowa University
Diana Kapiszewski, Georgetown University
David Kang, University of Southern California
Laleh Khalili, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
D. Marc Kilgour, Wilfrid Laurier University
Anna Leander, Copenhagen Business School
Brett Ashley Leeds, Rice University
Susanne Lutz, Freie Universitat Berlin
Cecelia Lynch, University of California, Irvine
Michaela Mattes, University of California, Berkeley
Manus Midlarsky, Rutgers University
Layna Mosley, University of North Carolina
Helen Nesadurai, Monash University
JoÃ£o Pontes Nogueira, PUC-Rio, Brazil
Irfan Nooruddin, Ohio State University
T.V. Paul, McGill University
Aseem Prakash, University of Washington
Dan Reiter, Emory University
Nita Rudra, Georgetown University
Thomas Sattler, London School of Economics
Gerald Schneider, University of Konstanz
Susan K. Sell, George Washington University
Robbie Shilliam, Queen Mary, University of London
Branislav L. Slantchev, University of California, San Diego
Shiping Tang, Fudan University
William R. Thompson, Indiana University
Arlene Tickner, Universidad de Los Andes

Jacqui True, Monash University
Brandon Valeriano, University of Glasgow
Latha Varadarajan, San Diego State University
Thomas Volgy, University of Arizona
Harvey Starr, University of South Carolina
James Raymond Vreeland, Georgetown University
Stefanie Walter, University of Zurich
Catherine E. Weaver, University of Texas at Austin
Annick T.R. Wibben, University of San Francisco
William C. Wohlforth, Dartmouth College
Cornelia Woll, Sciences Po
Amy Yuen, Middlebury College