

## JOURNALS UPDATE

### Editor's Report on the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*

by Paul A. Mongeau,  
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This is my least favorite time of year in Arizona. The American college football season begins next weekend and the first day of fall is only a few weeks away, but summer won't release its fiery grip over the Arizona desert for another month or more. (As I type, it is 107 degrees [43C] outside.) Despite that fact, the ability to 'pen' my *fall* IARR newsletter copy gives me hope that, indeed, cooler weather will arrive...eventually.

As I'm sure you've heard by now, Mario Mikulincer has been named the next (and only fourth) JSPR editor. I am sure that he is busy putting together his editorial team, being trained on Manuscript Central, and all the other tasks that go along with becoming editor. Mario and I have worked together to develop the transition plan and will continue to do so over the next year-plus. The current editorial team will continue to process new submissions through the end of the year (122 days away...but who is counting). We will also continue to work with revisions of manuscripts submitted under our watch through 2010. Any manuscript (new or revisions) submitted after the end of 2010 will be handled by Mario's editorial team. Finally, I will continue to facilitate the production of issues through volume 27 (i.e., the 2010 production year).

The good news for this report is that the impact rating for JSPR continues to increase. The 2008 ratings exceeded 1.00 (coming in at 1.097) for the first time in recent memory (and, perhaps,

ever). We stand 14<sup>th</sup> in Communication journals and 27<sup>th</sup> in Social Psychology journals. (If we were to appear in the Family Studies list, we would be 19<sup>th</sup>.) What is more, we continue to excel in the Eigenfactor Score (6<sup>th</sup> in Communication and 25<sup>th</sup> in Social Psychology), though I have to admit that I don't understand what it means. Our relative standing within disciplines has remained relatively flat while the impact ratings continue to climb because many journals are chasing after the same brass ring.

As my days of being the 'receiving editor' dwindle, I want to make sure that I begin to thank all those people who have helped make the journal the high-quality enterprise that it is. There are so many associate editors, advisory board members, ad-hoc reviewers, authors, production editors, book review editors, editorial assistants (past and present) that all have to work together to make this journal an interesting, enlightening, and indispensable reference, that I cannot name them all. There are so many people that I've asked for advice and help and given unreasonable deadlines for uninteresting tasks that I cannot express how much I appreciate the amount of collective effort that has been exerted on the journal's behalf.

Thank you all.

### Final Report from the Masthead Editor of *Personal Relationships*

by Rebecca G. Adams,  
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at Greensboro, USA

My editorial team's term is grinding to a halt. *Personal Relationships* (PR) 16:3 (September) is in production and 16.4 is almost ready to submit. In addition to the 10 articles that have been accepted or will soon be accepted to appear in my editorial team's last issue, six manuscripts remain active in our queue. Lorne Campbell,

my successor, has graciously agreed to let any authors who were invited to revise and resubmit their manuscripts to my team but failed to do so before we had filled our last issue to submit them to his team as new submissions. I will email the relevant authors when the time comes. When Sue Sprecher's term was nearly over, she needed one article from my team in order to fill the pages she had remaining in her last volume. In contrast, my team will be requesting that the IARR Board purchase some additional pages to accommodate the manuscripts we have accepted. The need for an increasing number of pages reflects an increase in the submission rate, not an increase in the acceptance rate. I will not report detailed submission statistics here because Sarah Hosman, Brandi McCullough, and I intend to summarize them in the Preface for our final issue (16.4). Note, however, that Sue Sprecher received 100-120 submissions per year; in contrast, I received an average of 161 submissions per year. Although I have not yet computed the final acceptance rate for my term, during this same period acceptance rates decreased from the 20-25% that Sue reported to fewer than 20%.

Blackwell-Wiley recently notified me that they are now providing two new services to *PR*. First, articles based on research funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) published in *PR* will now be submitted to PubMed by Wiley-Blackwell. When the *PR* Editor submits articles to Wiley-Blackwell for publication, production assistants will scan the acknowledgements for mention of NIH funding. Any NIH-funded article will then be uploaded to an FTP site for PubMed to collect. See the following link for more details regarding our publisher's policy regarding PubMed articles: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-321171.html>

Second, as part of Wiley-Blackwell's ongoing commitment to providing guidance and support to societies and journal editors in handling actual or suspected infringements of publication ethics, the company has recently enrolled *PR* as a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): <http://publicationethics.org/>. COPE was founded in the United Kingdom (U.K.) in

1997 by a group of medical journal editors concerned about publication misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, attempted or actual redundant publication, attempts to pass off fraudulent data, unethical research, breaches of confidentiality). Originally a loose gathering of individuals, COPE is now a limited company and registered non-profit in the U.K. Membership in COPE sends a signal to authors and reviewers that a journal upholds the highest ethical standards and that an editor will take appropriate action in cases of possible misconduct.

I would like to end my final report by thanking those who, during my editorial term, have helped make *PR* the top quality journal it is. In addition to providing important special services like those mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs, Wiley-Blackwell's staff have provided my team with outstanding routine support. Although I will not mention all staff by name, I must mention both of our production managers (Sarah MacKay and Erin Bogle) and our proofreader (Beth Baugh) for their professionalism, thoroughness, and patience. It has also been a delight to work with IARR Presidents (Sandra Petronio, Beverley Fehr, Phil Shaver, Frank Fincham, and Jackie Fitzpatrick), Board members, Treasurers (Chris Agnew and Michael Cunningham), and Publications Chairs (Julie Fitness, Dan Perlman, and Susan Sprecher). The journal would not have been possible without the Editorial Board, the reviewers, and especially the authors. I would also like to give special thanks for their exceptional work and perseverance to my associate editors (Susan Boon, Susan Branje, Rodney M.Cate, Catrin Finkenauer, Mario Mikulincer, and Denise Solomon) and to my current and former Editorial Assistants, Sarah Hosman and Brandi McCullough. I have come to realize that it takes not one, but two villages to produce and publish a journal, a professional organization and a publisher. Fortunately IARR and Wiley-Blackwell are both special organizations whose members and staff take not only their work, but also their personal relationships with their co-workers, seriously.