

## EDITOR'S REPORT

### *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

#### **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

We acknowledge and thank Jonathan Neufeld, the JAAC Book Review Editor, and his editorial assistant, Caroline Requierme, for their excellent work. Dana Casey, editorial assistant, and Azharul Islam and Lea Dean, administrative assistants, have provided invaluable service to JAAC this year. Special thanks are due to Central Michigan University and Minnesota State University Moorhead for their support of JAAC and its operations. We also thank Julie Van Camp, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society for Aesthetics, and Kathleen Higgins, President of the Society, for their continuing advice and assistance. We also thank Jieying Lee and Sara Welliver at Wiley Periodicals for ongoing assistance in a great many matters.

#### **PEER REVIEW**

The median time in peer review for a submitted article is slightly less than two months.

The quality of the Journal depends on the many scholars who volunteer their time to serve as peer evaluators of submissions. Members of the Society who are interested in serving as referees should contact the editors. A list of recent referees is published in the first issue of the Journal every year.

#### **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

**Production Schedule.** Since last year's Editor's Report, we have published Vol. 76, no. 4 (Fall 2018, the Special Issue on Environmentalism and Aesthetics) and Vol. 77, nos. 1-3 (Winter, Spring, Summer). No. 4 will be shipped to ASA members in the first week of November.

In Volume 77 we published 30 articles (excluding introductory essays), and 5 discussion pieces (including invited responses). There were no symposia.

In comparison, the immediately prior Volume (76) saw publication of 33 articles, and 5 discussion pieces (and no symposia). 75 saw publication of 30 articles, and 8 discussion essays (and no symposia). Volume 74 saw publication of 22 articles, and 3 discussion essays (and no symposia). Volume 73 held 25 articles, six discussion exchanges, and two symposia consisting of 9 short articles.

The tentative schedule for the appearance of Volume 76 (2018) is as follows.

Vol. 78, no. 1 (Winter): online 4 Feb 2020; print shipping early Feb 2019

Vol. 78, no. 2 (Spring): online 3 May 2020; print shipping early May 2019

Vol. 78, no. 3 (Summer): online 4 August 2020; print shipping early Aug 2019

Vol. 78, no. 4 (Fall): online 3 Nov 2020; print shipping early Nov 2019

**New Manuscripts.** We received 226 submissions between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, of which 214 were submitted as articles and 12 as discussion. Of the total submitted, 40 articles and 5 discussions were accepted for publication, and the remainder rejected. This translate to an acceptance rate of 17.7 % (or 16% for articles alone).

Additional data about submissions and acceptance rates is included as an appendix to this report.

Referees continue to provide constructive comments to authors. Our current working process is to assign a new manuscript to one editor, who identifies potential referees and then reviews their suitability with the second editor before issuing any invitations to referee. The comments of our referees are reviewed by both editors. These comments are often quite extensive and specific for both accepted and rejected papers, and we are gratified by the responses of authors who express their appreciation for the time and attention that referees spend on their papers. The vast majority of referees return their reports within six weeks of accepting a manuscript assignment.

**Book Reviews.** We review books in a wide variety of fields related to aesthetics, criticism, and theories of the arts. In the first three issues of Volume 77 we published 36 book reviews. In comparison, the previous five years saw 27 reviews, 26 reviews, 32 reviews, 26 reviews, 29 reviews, and 24 reviews, respectively.

Book reviews are by invitation. Those who would like to write reviews are encouraged to contact Prof. Jonathan Neufeld at College of Charleston and send their CV and an indication of

the areas in which they would like to review.

### **JOHN FISHER MEMORIAL PRIZE COMPETITION**

The winner of the John Fisher Memorial Prize for 2019 is Dr. Nemesio García-Carril Puy, Department of Philosophy, Granada University, Spain, for his paper entitled "The Ontology of Musical Versions: Introducing the Hypothesis of Nested Types." Dr. Puy will present the paper at the ASA Annual Meeting in Phoenix October 9-12. His paper will later be published in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

The Fisher prize, awarded in alternate years to an original essay in aesthetics, was created in memory of the late John Fisher, editor of *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* from 1973 to 1988. The Prize is offered to foster the development of new voices and talent in the field of aesthetics. Submitted papers are evaluated by a subset of the Journal's editorial board. The next Fisher Prize will be awarded in 2021. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. Guidelines are posted at the American Society for Aesthetics website.

### **SPECIAL ISSUES and SYMPOSIA**

We invite proposals for special issues of the Journal and for specialized symposia on topics under-represented in the Journal.

The next special issue is Vol. 77, no. 4: *Race and Aesthetics*, and is co-edited by guest editors A.W. Eaton and C.F. Peterson. The issue has twelve articles and will be shipped to ASA members in the first week of November, when it will also appear online.

The next special issue is also scheduled, and a call for papers has been widely circulated, including appearance in multiple issues of the Journal. It is *Stand-Up Comedy and Philosophy*, edited by Sheila Lintott. The deadline for submission is November 15, 2019.

Symposia typically consist of three or more relatively brief papers that address a topic of current interest or that introduce a range of views on a new topic. Normally, a symposium dedicated to the discussion of a monograph or the published work of a particular author should make contributions to a topic that is not well represented in the Journal.

Our next symposium, "'Categories of Art' at 50," will appear in Volume 78, no. 1.

Full guidelines for Special Issue and Symposia proposals are on the JAAC website under "Author Guidelines," and on the ASA website under JAAC, "Calls and Submissions."

## **OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING**

ASA members sometimes ask about the possibility of open access for JAAC articles and other types of content. Green access is the default for all material published in JAAC, and gold access can be purchased by authors or their institutions.

Green access is a form of self-archiving. Authors have the right to post copies of their work on the internet within certain parameters. Authors do not, however, have the right to post a PDF or scanned copy that was prepared by the publisher. (Authors may not, for example, download the PDF copy from the Journal website and then repost that copy.) But authors do have the right to post, and create open access to, the text that was submitted to JAAC and subsequently published there. However, if there is a difference between the submitted text and the version accepted following revisions made in response to peer review and/or editorial comment, then some constraints apply. The post-peer review text cannot be posted with open access until two years from the date of publication. For either of these versions of the text, posting must be accompanied with a short acknowledgement of its relationship to the copyrighted text in JAAC, and posting is limited to:

- the author's personal website
- the author's institutional repository or archive
- not for profit subject-based repositories such as PubMed Central

In addition, the author may send or transmit copies of the final published article to colleagues on a one-to-one basis (e.g., in response to a personal request for a copy).

Gold access is complete open access: anyone with internet access can go to the publisher's website and access the published article. Open access begins on the date of publication. In other words, gold access gives everyone the same access that you currently receive with your ASA membership, but without any requirement of membership or payment of any access fees.

Why doesn't the ASA arrange for gold access to all JAAC material? Currently, library and other electronic access to JAAC are an annual revenue source to the ASA that reduces our membership fees and subsidizes our other operating costs, including low fees for national and regional meetings. Under our arrangement with Wiley Journals, shifting to gold access would require authors to pay the publisher a fee for each article that JAAC publishes. The ASA would receive a share of those fees, but there would be little or no further revenue from the publication of the Journal. This system has two harmful consequences. It would discourage submissions from authors who cannot afford the publishing fee or who do not have research

grants that cover the fee, which is in excess of \$3000. Secondly, libraries would no longer have any reason to subscribe to the Journal, and we can anticipate that it would soon be the case that revenue to the ASA would be reduced to our share of the publishing fees. As a result, adopting gold access would most likely cause annual revenue to the ASA to be reduced sharply. (A conservative estimate is that they would be reduced more than 50%.) The same problem may arise if the Society decided to take the Journal “independent” of the major academic publishers. However, without the backing of a major academic publisher, subscriptions would most likely plummet. The Journal would become a significant cost to the ASA, rather than its primary source of revenue.

For more on access issues and JAAC, see our web page at [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1540-6245](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1540-6245) and select “Open Access” from the “Contribute” menu.

However, it is also important to know that there have been major recent international developments regarding gold access. First, many academic libraries and university systems are mobilizing against the current subscription model of access, and several have opted not to renew their subscription licenses with some major academic publishers. Second, the subscription model of academic publishing will be eroded by the implementation of “Plan S.” Designed by an international consortium of 19 research funding agencies (primarily for science—hence “s”), the plan requires gold access for any publication arising from the research they fund. Following international consultation with publishers and academics, “Plan S” will take effect Jan. 21, 2021. However, research funded by the consortium cannot be published by purchasing gold access in a subscription journal. Publishing will be restricted to journals that are *entirely* gold access (i.e., they must not have fees or paywalls for any readers of any components of the journal). “Hybrid” journals such as JAAC (which charge a subscription fee while also providing selective open access) will not be allowed to publish work funded by the consortium unless they make a commitment to become fully open access in the near future.

Although “Plan S” is unlikely to have any immediate impact on *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, it is expected to bring about rapid changes throughout academic publishing. Once academic institutions are no longer paying fees for subscriptions to science journals, they are likely to balk at continuing to pay fees for any other research. As the publishers move to a fee-for-publishing system for their most profitable journals, that business model is likely to become the norm for academic journal publishing. Commenting on “Plan S,” the non-profit Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) has concluded that subscription-model journals of smaller professional societies should anticipate major disruptions in their publishing models in

the very near future. There is speculation that “Plan S” will soon become the norm throughout Europe. At present, about 50% of JAAC institutional subscriptions are European institutions.

## **OTHER ELECTRONIC MATTERS**

### **Electronic Publication with Wiley-Blackwell**

- Downloads of JAAC articles via Wiley Online increased by 18.8% in 2018.
- In 2018, four JAAC articles had in excess of 1,000 downloads each via Wiley Online.
- Worldwide, over 5,800 institutions purchase electronic access to *JAAC*. This is a 10% increase from 2018.
- Wiley’s philanthropic initiatives extended low-cost or free access to just under 8,000 developing world institutions.
- Approximately 60% of electronic access to *JAAC* is initiated by individuals outside North America.

ASA members have electronic access to the full text of current and recent issues of *JAAC* (beginning with Volume 59) through [www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com](http://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com), the website that Wiley-Blackwell maintains for journals they publish. For further information see their website, [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com). Authors of articles published in *JAAC* are required to sign up for Author Services when their article enters production and all authors receive a clear explanation of the benefits including the ability to retrieve the final PDF file of their article along the terms and conditions of use. Wiley-Blackwell continues to pursue its mission as one of the world’s foremost academic and professional publishers and as the premier publisher of journals of scholarly and professional societies. Its list contains more than 1,500 scholarly peer-reviewed journals. Wiley-Blackwell sponsors seminars in December in Washington, D.C., for editors and publishers in order to familiarize their clients with some of the opportunities and issues surrounding electronic matters.

### **Electronic Management through Scholar One.**

All manuscripts continue to be submitted and edited through ScholarOne Manuscripts, Wiley-Blackwell’s preferred web-based management system. ScholarOne provides journal management to more than 500 scholarly societies. Since 2013, the copyright transfer process has been handled as a web-based interface through Wiley Author Licensing System, an online checklist.

### **JSTOR Digital Archives.**

All issues of the Journal are available via JSTOR, a scholarly journal archive service. Founded in

1994, JSTOR is a non-profit partnership of more than 7,000 libraries and research institutions in 150 countries worldwide that provides access to scholarly materials for participating institutions. They are an archive of the printed version of over 1,500 scholarly journals across 50 disciplines, not merely of individual articles and reviews, and over one million images, letters, and other primary sources. Full search, browse, citation, print and download capabilities are available for all material in *JAAC* after a “rolling wall” of three years. Since 2008, JSTOR has waived or offered reduced fees for more than 1, 500 academic and not-for-profit institutions in developing countries and all of Africa. JSTOR sponsors seminars annually for scholarly journal editors and publishers on electronic developments and other current issues in publishing, similar to those held by Wiley-Blackwell. For further information about JSTOR, see their website, [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org).

***JAAC* Website.**

There are two *JAAC* websites. An informational website is incorporated into the general website of the American Society for Aesthetics. The website is regularly updated. The second is the *JAAC* component of the Wiley Online Library website, which provides information about Wiley-Blackwell, permissions, and electronic access to issues of *JAAC* from Volume 59 to the current issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Stecker and Theodore Gracyk

Editors

## **JAAC Statistics for submissions from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

**Total number of articles and discussion pieces submitted:** 226

Acceptances: 40 (35 articles and 5 discussions)

Rejections: 182 (175 articles and 7 discussions) (4 undecideds at time of report)

Acceptance rate for articles: 16%

Acceptance rate for articles plus discussion pieces: 17.7%

(In 2017-2018, the acceptance rate was 12% for articles and 12.7% overall)

(In 2016-2017 the acceptance rate was 16% for articles and 17.6% overall)

(In 2015-2016 the acceptance rate was 13.4% for articles and 15.45% overall)

(In 2014-2015 the acceptance rate was 12.6% for articles and 16% overall.)

19 article submissions had multiple authors, so the total number of males/females in the following analysis is greater than the number of actual submissions.

**Total article submissions from female authors:** 92 submitted (15 acceptances; 74 rejections; 3 undecideds)

Submission rate 38%, Acceptance rate 16.3% (adding discussions, no statistical change)

(2017-18 submission rate 30%, Acceptance rate 19%

(2016-17 submission rate 23%, Acceptance rate 23%)

(2015-16 submission rate 30.1%, Acceptance rate 9.85%)

(2014-15 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 10%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 29%, acceptance rate 17.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 31%, acceptance rate 14%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 24%, acceptance rate 11.7%)

**Total article submissions from male authors:** 152 (23 acceptances; 131 rejections; 1 undecided)

Submission rate 62%, Acceptance rate 15.1% (adding discussions, acceptance rate 19%)

(2017-18 submission rate 70%, Acceptance rate 12.4%

(2016-17 submission rate 77%, Acceptance rate 15.5%)

(2015-16 submission rate 69.9%, Acceptance rate 16.36%)

(2014-15 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 23%)

(2013-14 Submission rate 71%, acceptance rate 19.2%)

(2012-13 Submission rate 69%, acceptance rate 17%)

(2011-12 Submission rate 76%, acceptance rate 11%)