

EDITORS' REPORT
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism
September 1, 2023-August 30, 2024

CURRENT OPERATIONS

We acknowledge and thank Jonathan Neufeld, the JAAC Book Review Editor, and his editorial assistants Verina Salib (funded by the ASA) and Curtis Teegardin (sponsored by the College of Charleston) for their excellent work on the Journal. Also essential to our editorial processes have been Eleanor Jerome, and Georgina Malone (funded by the CUNY Graduate Center), who have provided invaluable service to JAAC in 2023-24, and who have signed on as editorial assistants for the upcoming academic year. Special thanks are due to the CUNY Graduate Center, Baruch College and Hunter College (City University of New York) for their support of JAAC and its operations. At Oxford University Press, we thank Chris Robinson, together with production manager Mariappan Gurunathan for their tremendous assistance with the publication of the Journal. We are grateful to Julie Van Camp, who has kept us on task and in regular fruitful conversation with the Society, and we have started to loop in Renee Conroy, incoming Secretary-Treasurer.

JAAC EDITORSHIP

On January 31, 2023 the previous editors, Robert Stecker and Theodore Gracyk, who successfully stewarded this 82-year-old journal through a change in publisher and many other challenges for 10 years, handed the editorial reins to Jonathan Gilmore and Sandra Shapshay.

Since September 1, 2023, we have published Volume 81.3, which featured 7 original articles, 4 discussion pieces (along with replies by the authors of the essays under discussion), and 4 book reviews. In Winter of 2023 we published Volume 81.4, featuring 9 original articles--including Hannah Kim's essay "A Dual-Process Model of Xunzi's Philosophy of Music" which was awarded the 2023 Fisher Prize by the American Society of Aesthetics as well as David Davies' essay "Nine Explananda in Search of an Explanans", which was presented as his Presidential Address, American Society of Aesthetics Annual Meeting, 2022—along with 3 book reviews. This volume also featured a Symposium organized by Andrea Baldini on the role of aesthetics in debating culinary heritage.

In early 2024 we published Volume 82.1, which featured 8 original articles and 2 book reviews. Literally any day now, 82.2 will be published, featuring 7 original articles including Elisabeth Schellekens' 2023 Richard Wollheim Memorial Lecture titled "Thinking the Aesthetic: Towards A Noetic Conception of Aesthetic Experience". Teed-up for early fall, we have a special issue guest-edited by Melissa Zinkin and Brian Soucek on "The Aesthetics and Art of Capitalism", containing an introduction by Melissa Zinkin as well as 6 original articles by Rachel Zuckert on Adam Smith, Simon Frankel (a Judge on the San Francisco Superior Court) and Joseph Moore on copyright, Ben Roth on the importance of class in the horror film *Us*, Tom Hanauer on

Nietzsche and the hit TV series “The Office”, Bryan Parkhurst on capitalism and music, and Quill Kukla on the capitalist dynamics of street art.

PEER REVIEW

The quality of the Journal depends on the many scholars who volunteer their time to serve as peer evaluators of submissions. Referees have been offering meticulous, substantive, critical yet constructive feedback to authors, and have greatly aided the editors in evaluating submissions. However, it has continued to be difficult in 2024 to secure two peer evaluators, and it is not uncommon to ask 9 or 10 scholars before JAAC can secure two expert referees. Members of the Society who are interested in serving as referees should contact the editors. A grateful acknowledgement of recent referees (listing all by name) is published in the first issue of the Journal every year.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

ASA members should be aware that our publishing relationship with Oxford University Press includes advance article publishing. For the latest publications, ASA members are encouraged to visit our OUP portal <https://academic.oup.com/jaac/advance-articles> regularly. Advance articles are ones that have been finalized and fully copyedited, released to the publisher, and set for publication. They are identical to the final published print version save for established page numbers within an issue.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Since September 1, 2023, we have published Vol. 81, nos. 3 and 4 as well as Volume 82, nos. 1 and 2 (the latter of which should be shipped to ASA members by mid-September). The transition in editors has continued to cause some delay, but Volume 82, no. 3 should be shipped to members by the end of November, 2024.

Volume 81 held 36 original articles, 15 symposium papers, and 8 discussion pieces (this excludes editorial matter and introductions to symposia and special issues)

By comparison, see the below chart:

Volume	Original articles	Symposium papers	Discussion pieces/critical notices (and responses)
82* projected	28	4	6
81	36	15	8
80	32	10	1
79	27	9	6
78	28	7	10
77	30	0	5
76	33	0	5
75	30	0	8

74	22	0	3
73	25	9	6

Analysis: There has been a trend toward larger JAAC volumes in the last three years, and a definite increase in the last 4 years in symposia and in discussion pieces. But Volume 82 is trending smaller, in part due to the highly selective special issue on “the Aesthetics and Art of Capitalism”.

The tentative schedule for the appearance of the remainder of Volume 82 (2024) is as follows:

- Volume 82, no. 2 (Spring): print shipping in early September 2024.
- Volume 82, no. 3 (Fall, special issue on “The Art and Aesthetics of Capitalism”, co-edited by Brian Soucek and Melissa Zinkin): print shipping November 2024.
- Volume 82, no. 4 (Winter): print shipping by the end of January 2025.

New Manuscripts from September 1, 2023-August 30, 2024:

Original articles submitted: 263

The acceptance rate for all original articles (included invited submissions for special issues) in the past 12 months has been $46/263 = 17.5\%$

The following table gives basic acceptance/rejection data **on all submissions (for special issues, discussion pieces, symposia—but excludes book reviews)**. This is provided for purposes of comparison [note, data for years before 2023 comprises a full calendar year, thus the larger number of submissions]:

Submission Date	In Review	Withdrawn	Accepted	Rejected	Acceptance Rate	Final Decision
2020	10	1	76	178	30.0%	254
2021	5	2	68	166	29.0%	234
2022	7	1	83	168	33.0%	251
2023	36	1	46	217	17.5%	263

Gender analytics

[Note: We would like to provide a snapshot, as best we can, of the gender inclusivity of the JAAC. However, we are aware that this is a complex and difficult undertaking. On the one hand, given the ongoing gender imbalance in the field of philosophy, we want to gauge how inclusive the Journal is for women authors in particular. On the other hand, few submitting authors report their gender. Thus, the methods utilized for assessing gender balance are woefully inadequate, consisting of judgments regarding first names and editors' first-hand knowledge of the gender identity of the submitting authors in question. For the sake of gauging progress especially with

respect to the inclusion of women in philosophical aesthetics, we are offering some rough statistics on 3 gender identities. Notwithstanding, the editors acknowledge that gender is a spectrum including many options.]

Volume	Women authors	Men authors	Non-binary
81	22	43	0
82 (projected)	12	23	2

Analysis: In volume 81, women-identifying people comprised **33.8% of published authors** in JAAC. In volume 82, women-identifying people comprise **32.4% of published authors**, and non-binary identifying people comprise 5.4% of published authors.

According to a recent study published in *Ethics* (by Nicole Hassoun, Sherri Conklin, Michael Nekrasov, and Jevin West, April 2022, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/718075>), the “most recent research suggest that while women compose 26% of authorships across all disciplines, they account for between 12-16% of authorship in philosophy journals.”

The percentages of women authors published in JAAC are certainly better than the representation of women authorships in philosophy journals as a whole. However, while the JAAC has a better gender balance of authorships in the field of philosophy, we still have a way to go toward achieving real gender equality in authorships, and the editors will continue to work on this problem.

BOOK REVIEWS

We review books in a wide variety of fields related to aesthetics, criticism, and theories of the arts. Volume 81 published 12 reviews—in 81.4 there is a triple review (three books) that is about twice as long as a normal review. In comparison, the previous seven years saw 14 reviews, 24 reviews, 22 reviews, 36 reviews, 27 reviews, 26 reviews, 32 reviews, 26 reviews, and 29 reviews, respectively. In volume 82, we have 9 reviews projected currently.

Book reviews are by invitation. Those who would like to write reviews are encouraged to contact Prof. Jonathan Neufeld at the College of Charleston and send their CV as well as an indication of the areas in which they would like to review.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS

Every other year, JAAC awards the Fisher prize, an award created in memory of the late John Fisher, editor of the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* from 1973-1988. The Prize is meant 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. In 2023, the prize was awarded to Hannah Kim (Assistant Prof. at the Univ of Arizona) for her paper “A Dual-Process Model of Xunzi’s Philosophy of Music” and was published in 81.4.

The next Fisher Prize will be awarded in 2025. The deadline for submission will be January 15, 2025. Guidelines are posted at the American Society for Aesthetics website and the OUP website.

SPECIAL ISSUES and SYMPOSIA

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

Our next special issue “The Aesthetics and Art of Capitalism” will be guest edited by Brian Soucek and Melissa Zinkin. Publication date will be fall 2024, Volume 82.3. Currently, the editors and the editorial board are soliciting and reviewing (with the Editorial Board) proposals for the special issue for 2025 and 2026.

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.

We are looking forward to publishing a symposium on “Discordant Songs” edited by Joseph Moore in 82.4.

Full guidelines for Special Issue and Symposia proposals are on the OUP JAAC website <https://academic.oup.com/jaac> under “Call for Proposals” and on the ASA website under JAAC, “Calls and Submissions”.

NEW INITIATIVES

We are publishing a new format for scholarly exchange in 82.4: A “critical notice” by Diarmuid Costello on a recent book by Sherri Irvin, *Immaterial: Rules in Contemporary Art* (OUP 2022), along with a reply by the author. This is a bit different from the “discussion piece” format, which is typically a 4,000-word, critical engagement with a journal article, published alongside a reply by the author. We invite submissions of this “critical notice” format going forward, which critically discuss important **new books in the field**.

Another initiative we have undertaken recently is to make as much use of the “Editor’s Choice” function as we are allowed. We have designated several articles as “Editor’s Choice,” which makes them open access for several months. For instance, Kathryn Wojtkiewicz’s “How do you Solve a Problem like DALL-E 2?”; Elisabeth Schellekens’ article on the “noetic conception” of aesthetic experience; Emmie Malone’s “Rhinestone Cowboys” on country music costuming; and “Imagining Dinosaurs” by Michel-Antoine Xhignesse on the aesthetics of dinosaur mounts in natural history museums have all been designated “editor’s choice” and ungated for a time. We hope that such timely articles with wide popular appeal will bring new groups of readers to the JAAC.

Another new initiative has been to increase JAAC's social media profile. Our hip editorial assistant, Georgie Malone, has been making use of Instagram and Twitter/X to promote recently published articles. JAAC hopes to attract more attention to the exciting work that is being done in philosophical aesthetics: Please follow us on IG and Twitter/X!

The editors of JAAC (including Book Review editor, Jonathan Neufeld) are also aiming to start publishing an expanded range of reviews in 2025: reviews of art exhibitions, films, public art, theater, musical performances, and festivals, etc. The focus will be on philosophically engaging art events happening all around North America. Since these reviews will be timely, the editors will be soliciting authors for short pieces (approximately 2,000 words) on a brisk time frame (asking them to submit within 6-8 weeks). As is the case with other submissions to the Journal, these reviews will appear both in the Advance Articles section of the OUP JAAC website, and in the print issues. The rationale is to promote greater engagement between philosophical aesthetics and the Artworld, broadly understood. Admittedly, we have been slow to get this initiative off the ground, as the learning curve for editing the JAAC is--as we have found--rather steep, but we would love to hear from authors who would like to write a short review of this nature.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Gilmore and Sandra Shapshay

Editors