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EDITORIAL

A Fresh Term of Service at *Motivation Science*

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A Fresh Term of Service at *Motivation Science*

We were honored to assume co-editorial responsibilities of *Motivation Science* in 2016, following service of the founding editor, Deborah Prentice, and interim editorial service by David Dunning. Our initial term as Co-Editors is now completed, but we have agreed to serve a second term. This brief report reviews our original aims, notes achievements, and describes aspirations for the future.

Aims

Stepping in as Co-Editors, we aimed to build on prior editorial accomplishments, establishing the journal as a premier publication outlet for research scientists whose work includes motivational components. Like the editors who preceded us, we took the interdisciplinary aspect of the journal's mission seriously, envisioning the journal as a central repository for ideas and findings from investigators with diverse affiliations, training backgrounds, and focuses. A related vision was to facilitate communication within the broader community of motivation scientists, encouraging conceptual and empirical integrations and advancement of motivation as an independent field of study.

We met with successes in our first term due in no small part to interactions with – and support provided by – three groups of individuals. One group included members of our outstanding editorial board. Board members consistently met expectations and, in some instances, went above their call of duty in addressing concerns and challenges. A second group included members of our kind and competent American Psychological Association (APA) editorial staff. Staff rotated over time but sitting members were always a joy to work with – cheerfully accomplishing chores large and small. The third group included colleagues in leadership positions at the Society for the Science of Motivation (SSM - <https://www.scienceofmotivation.org/>), the societal sponsor and co-owner of *Motivation Science*. Time and again, these individuals made themselves available, investing energy and other resources to promote journal stability and growth.

Achievements

During our first Co-Editor term, journal achievements included two special issues, one focused on interdisciplinary motivation perspectives and the other focused on aggression. We are grateful to Arie Kruglanski and Tory Higgins for co-editing the first of these and to Eddie Harmon-Jones and Dennis Shutter for co-editing the second. Achievements also included development of two special features – our SSM Presidential series and our Legacies in Motivation Science series. The Presidential series presents addresses of outgoing SSM presidents. Addresses are scientifically substantive and elevate the profile of our sponsoring society, helping to advance its mission. The Legacy series presents invited papers concerned with enduring contributions to motivation science along with brief invited commentaries. Article downloads and citations indicate that this series has been especially well received. By way of example, our Legacy installment by Locke and Latham (2019), “The Development of Goal Setting Theory: A Half Century Retrospective” was identified as the third most downloaded article across all 89 APA journals in the year it was published. Our most recent Legacy installment featured contributions of Batson (2022) relating to prosocial motivation. Pending installments will feature contributions by Jacque Eccles and Allan Wigfield and by Carol Dweck.

On the theme of special journal features, we can announce here the start of new one – an “Out-of-the-Box” journal section. This section will provide a home for a class of contributions that might attract broad interest but not fit neatly into conventional submission categories. Submissions will be brief (e.g., 1-12 manuscript pages) and can involve a variety of formats. Examples include short thought pieces, humor pieces, pieces concerned with history, and pieces concerned with contemporary issues. Contributions might involve personal profiles (e.g., of important figures), interviews, and even substantive fictional depictions. Our inaugural Out-of-the-Box installment that is published in this issue falls into the last category above. It was prepared by Weiner (2022), with the title “I had coffee (actually tea) with Clark Hull”.

Bernie Weiner presents a fictional account of his coming across Clark Hull in a New Haven coffee shop. The ensuing conversation is engaging and instructive in multiple respects.

Other achievements of note were journal expansion, maintenance of submission processing efficiency and high publication standards, and indexing in Scopus and the Web of Science. Concerning expansion, early issues of *Motivation Science* were constrained in size and page allocation. This is normal for new publications, as they must find their voice and establish their audience. Maturation is marked in part by relaxation of these constraints, and we have enjoyed advancement in this regard. We were assigned steadily improved page allocations over the course of our term and in 2020 transitioned to a full-size APA publication format. Relaxation of size and page constraints significantly increased journal space, providing multiple benefits – including reduced publication lag and opportunities for special issues and new features.

Concerning submission processing and publication standards, performance metrics have been strong. We set out to provide submission feedback to authors within 40 days and have either met or exceeded that benchmark in each year of our service. We also set out to apply rigorous standards of acceptance. Rejection rates have varied from year-to-year, in part because of variability in the number of invited papers. However, those for regularly submitted articles have aligned with rejection rates at other top-tier psychology journals, typically falling in a healthy 60- to 70 percent range.

An additional metric for publication standards is citations, presuming that citations tend to follow quality and that quality tends to follow editorial rigor. In this regard it is of note that our Scopus' cite score for July 2022 was 2.8 (228 citations/81 documents). The Scopus cite score considers articles and citations for a 4-year span. However, *Motivation Science* was Scopus-listed only in 2020. Thus, our March 2022 score should underestimate impact. A more telling citation index could be provided by a Google Scholar analysis that counted the number of all available citations in relation to the number of published articles. This revealed in July 2022 an

impressive score of 19.21 for the period covering all seven completed volumes (2015-2021), a score of 16.81 for the two years preceding our final 2021 volume (2019-2020), and a score of 5.40 for our last two volumes (2020-2021). Maybe most important for authors, our first Web of Science impact factor, published this June, is 3.24. It is more modest than the Google Scholar cite scores, due to its special characteristics. But it is impressive as an inaugural assignment. We think that the *Motivation Science* journal metrics show that the work we publish gets immediate and sustained attention.

Concerning our Scopus and Web of Science indexing, attainment of these milestones was especially satisfying and important for growth of the journal. Indexing improves not only journal visibility but also stature. Many strong authors are not well positioned to publish in journals that are not so listed, and some are actively disadvantaged if they publish in a journal that has not been assigned a Web of Science impact factor. We are happy that this changed and proud that work published in *Motivation Science* is well received.

A final point of note regarding achievements concerns submission rates. They have trended favorably across our term of service. In 2021, we had 118 submissions, the highest rate since *Motivation Science's* founding. With our fresh Scopus and Web of Science indexing and, especially, assignment of our Web of Science impact factor, we anticipate marked increases in submissions moving forward.

Aspirations

Although we are pleased with journal developments during our first term as Co-Editors, we are not prepared to rest. *Motivation Science* has considerably more potential to realize, particularly regarding reach. The science of motivation as an area of study addresses issues in diverse scholarly domains, including biology, business, economics, education, and neuroscience - to name a few. The journal is attracting a respectable number of submissions from individuals in some of these domains but falling short in attracting submissions from individuals in others.

We hope to improve outreach, in part, through expanded and targeted marketing. Marketing can involve increased advertisement in key (e.g., biology, education, and business) publications as well as increased personal representation at key professional meetings. We also hope to improve outreach by expanding the breadth of expertise on our editorial board. Our current board is expansive but weighted to psychology. We would like to integrate more high-profile representatives from other areas, figures whose presence will underscore our desire to attract submissions from their specialty and assure authors that their submissions will be properly considered.

Relevant to our need to expand reach in terms of scholarly domain is our need to improve personal diversity among those associated with the journal. We are concerned about an array of personal considerations, including culture, ethnicity, gender, and nationality. At present, two-thirds of our editorial board members are men, and the vast majority are of European heritage. Most affiliations are from universities in the United States, countries in western Europe, Canada, and Australia. We can improve diversity and have set doing so as a top priority.

Steps toward improvement in personal diversity can include more intense considerations of it in making editorial board additions and replacements. They also can include active networking to identify strong candidates from underrepresented groups for involvement as reviewers, board members, and associate editors once we begin adding them to our editorial team. Working with APA, we might do well to market *Motivation Science* specifically in journals that address issues of special interest to underrepresented groups. Papers published in these journals commonly concern motivational themes, although authors might not necessarily identify their work in these terms. Skillfully prepared advertisements could facilitate motivational framing and generate involvements that otherwise might not materialize.

Additional aspirations are to improve submission rates - targeting immediately a benchmark of 150 submissions per year – and build on our record of developing special issues and features for the journal. Concerning special issues there would seem to be no limit on possible themes, considering the fundamentality of motivation to the human condition. In this regard, we encourage readers to reach out with suggestions and recommendations of individuals who might be suitable as editors or co-editors.

We are advocates of open science and will continue endorsing associated practices. With relevant concerns in mind, we updated our submission process a while back. Authors of empirical papers are asked to make declarations relating to issues such as reporting of full methods, sample size, data access, and ethics approval. Authors have their attention drawn to APA guidelines for Research Transparency and Openness, aligned with APA Style *Journal Article Reporting Standards* (JARS). We welcome studies that have been pre-registered but do not favor requiring pre-registration or formally identifying papers that report pre-registered work. We explicitly ask authors to make data from published papers available.

Moving Ahead

We began this editorial journey six years ago understanding that it would be a challenge. Frankly, the journal has grown more quickly than we anticipated. Credit goes to the full team of individuals with whom we have had the privilege of working. We look forward to equally satisfying team efforts in our second term accompanied by continued and possibly even accelerated journal growth.

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