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EDITORIAL: Updates on the Development of Motivation Science

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Stabilization and Promotion

2017 was a strong year for *Motivation Science* (MOT), including various developments indicative of growth and maturation. This editorial conveys a brief update.

Readers might have noticed that MOT experienced publication lags during its first two years. We caught up in 2017 so that MOT is now published on schedule in March, June, September, and December. MOT also experienced personnel changes previously. The editorial team and support staffs are now stabilized, which has facilitated editorial work.

We have worked with APA to promote MOT. An initial step was to prepare an editorial outlining our aims and visions for the journal. The editorial was published in MOT and remains freely accessible on the MOT homepage:

<http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/mot/index.aspx>

Additional promotional steps involved developing a special journal issue and new journal features. Regarding special journal issue, we could recruit Arie Kruglanski (University of Maryland) and Tory Higgins (Columbia University) to organize it. Strategic aims were multifold, including ones to underscore the broad relevance of motivation science and attract attention to MOT from fresh professional quarters. The special issue included nine articles by renowned scholars with divergent training backgrounds and perspectives. It appeared in September of 2017. We are profoundly grateful to Kruglanski and Higgins for the excellent work they performed serving as guest editors. Moving forward, we hope to feature additional special issues at least bi-annually. Colleagues interested in organizing a special issue should feel free to contact us with their idea.

Regarding the new journal features, we developed two. One is a “Presidential Address” series that will include papers by presidents of the Society for the Science of Motivation (SSM). Papers will be based on oral presentations given by SSM presidents at annual SSM meetings. SSM presidential addresses were published previously in *Motivation and Emotion*, but moved to MOT at the request of members of the SSM executive council. To assure high quality, we require that this address will be peer-reviewed with the same rigor as regular MOT submissions.

The second new feature is a “Legacies in Motivation Science” series. This will include target papers that review the enduring significance of a theory, person (living or dead), experimental procedure, observation, or any other category fitting in the field of motivation. Articles, which will be peer-reviewed, will have a retrospective, historical focus while explaining the current importance of the subject matter. They will be accompanied by brief commentaries that extend no more than 500 words. Initially, we plan to publish one legacy article per year, with the article and commentaries invited by the editorial team. As the journal grows, we might expand. Our first legacy article appears in this issue. It is by Bernard Weiner, titled “The Legacy of an Attribution Approach to Motivation and Emotion: A No-Crisis Zone”. Associated commentaries were prepared by (1) Carol Dweck, (2) Reinhard Pekrun and Herbert Marsh, (3) Rainer Reisenzein and Udo Rudolf, and (4) Klaus Scherer.

Growth and Expansion

The number of manuscripts submitted to MOT doubled in 2017 comparing to 2016. Nevertheless, editorial decisions were made fast—on average within 1 month (compared to 2 months in 2016), with our manuscript rejection rate holding at 56.4% (compared to 58% in

2016). We had 18 desk-rejections. The average time from acceptance to Online First publication was 41.5 days, and the time lag from acceptance to print was 76.5 days.

At first glance, the rejection rate above - calculated using the standard APA formula - might appear low. However, it must be interpreted bearing in mind that nine articles were solicited for the special interdisciplinary issue. For regularly submitted articles, we had an effective rejection rate of 72.41%, which aligns well with rejection rates for top tier psychology journals. Given the steadily increasing submission rate, we anticipate an even higher rejection rate in the near future.

To help cope with the higher workload, we have nominated additional editorial board members, whose names appear in MOT's masthead from this issue on. Moreover, responding to the increase in submissions, we negotiated with APA an increase in journal page volume – moving to 360 pages. We also negotiated a submission rate target that will trigger conversion from our current compressed APA journal page size to a larger, conventional APA journal page size. We currently are on pace to meet the submission target in 2018. Thus, we are optimistic that MOT articles will be printed in the larger format in relatively short order.

Among our most significant 2017 developments: APA has agreed to apply for the Web of Science (Thomson Reuter) impact factor (IF). This is possible because three complete volumes of MOT have now been published. APA staff members and we have computed IFs using both liberal and conservative formulas. Figures look good regardless; thus, we have grounds for optimism. Establishment of a Web of Science IF is a priority because it will elevate further journal stature and further encourage authors to submit their best work.

Summary and Bottom Line

In summary, 2017 included numerous favorable developments. We caught up on our publication schedule, doubled our submission rate relative to 2016, and added new journal features. Despite our sharp increase in submissions, we processed papers quickly, maintained a healthy rejection rate, and moved papers promptly from acceptance to Online First and then to print. We negotiated a submission rate target that will trigger conversion to a larger, conventional APA journal page size and currently are on pace to meet that target in 2018. Application for a Web of Science (Thomson Reuter) IF is in process.

We encourage readers to submit their best work and review new issues as they appear, ideally receiving quarterly e-mail alerts or on the MOT homepage. We commit to processing quickly and doing all we can to advance promptly accepted papers to print. Working together with our editorial board and the editorial team of APA, we can move MOT ever so steadily toward its potential. We look forward to meeting our next objectives for MOT in its development to a reference journal for the science of motivation.