Security Studies Editor's Annual Report—2022

Editor-in-Chief
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This report covers manuscripts submitted to *Security Studies* between June 15, 2020, and June 15, 2021. It does not consider manuscripts submitted during that period that were withdrawn (3 mss). It does include manuscripts submitted under the journal's "race and security" call, either individually or as part of a special forum/issue (33 mss).

Submissions

Between June 15, 2020, and June 15, 2021, *Security Studies* received 354 first-time submissions from 536 authors. 230 of these manuscripts were single-authored, and 124 were co-authored.

As part of the submission process, authors declare their current locations. Based on this country-level data, we have calculated authors' locations by world region. The largest proportion of authors—just over 35%--hailed from North America, followed by Europe (34.1%) and Asia (20.2%). Table 1 shows the distribution of authors' locations by world region.

Table 1. Submitting Authors by Region

Author Location (Region)	Submissions	Submissions (%)
North America	188	35.07%
Latin America	9	1.68%
Western Europe	80	14.93%
Rest of Europe	103	19.22%
Asia	108	20.15%
Africa	22	4.10%
Oceania	26	4.85%

As part of the submission process, *Security Studies* also asks authors for their pronouns. 76.3% of authors indicated their pronoun was "him", and 22.95% indicated "her." Very few authors (just 4, or .75%) indicated "prefer not to say." No authors selected "them/ze/other" as their pronoun category. (See Table 2.)

Table 2. Submitting Author Pronouns

Authors by pronoun	Submissions	Submissions (%)
Him	409	76.31%
Her	123	22.95%
Them/Ze/Other	0	0.00%
Prefer Not to Say	4	0.75%

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[1] Produced with the assistance of Managing Editor Pedro Accorsi.

Based on this data, we can also calculate the pronouns of authors submitting single- and coauthored manuscripts. Per Table 3, most manuscripts submitted to *Security Studies* in 2020-2021 were solo-authored, but men were slightly more likely to submit solo-authored manuscripts than were women: our submitting pool of authors was over 76% male, and men were responsible for 80.9% of the solo-authored manuscripts. Men were significantly more likely to coauthor exclusively with other men than women were with other women: teams of all-men coauthors constituted 87.7% of gender-exclusive coauthored manuscripts. Another 14.4% of all manuscripts were submitted by teams of authors that were gender-inclusive.

Table 3. Submitted Manuscripts, by Author Pronouns

Manuscripts by author pronoun	Submissions	Submissions (%)
Solo-authored (Him)	186	52.54%
Co-authored (Him)	64	18.08%
Co-authored (Mixed)	51	14.41%
Co-authored (Her)	9	2.54%
Solo-authored (Her)	44	12.43%

Authors' accounts in ScholarOne—the manuscript management system used by *Security Studies*—also include their preferred titles (Dr., etc.), from which we infer their ranks. Table 4 displays the submission distribution by authors' self-declared titles. Nearly three-quarters of *Security Studies* submissions in 2020-2021 came from authors with doctorates (73.9%). This is likely an underestimate, since it is quite possible, if not likely, that authors forget to update their titles once they receive their doctorates.

Table 4. Submitting Author Rank

Rank	Submissions	Submissions (%)
Doctorate	397	73.93%
No Doctorate	140	26.07%

Decision Timelines

Security Studies' data on turnaround times—that is, the number of days that pass from the time of manuscript submission by the author to the trans mission of a decision letter by the journal—is constantly updated via a dynamic spreadsheet. Data on the timeliness of the journal's review and decision processes is therefore cumulative, from June 15, 2020, through February 14, 2022 (the date of this report's initial drafting). Manuscripts submitted during *Security Studies'* declared vacation periods are coded as having been submitted on the day the Managing Editor returned to work.

First-time submissions are first reviewed internally: the Managing Editor processes manuscripts and then sends them on with recommendations (to desk reject or review) to the Editor-in-Chief, who reviews the manuscripts without knowledge of the authors' identity. Of the 523 manuscripts processed with a decision to date, the initial evaluation of manuscripts was completed on average

within 7.15 days. The standard deviation is quite small (4 days). In other words, on average authors found out within one week whether their article had been desk rejected.

The *Security Studies* editorial team aims for timely review processes and hopes to produce decisions on reviewed manuscripts within 3 months. However, the length of the review process is to a significant degree outside our control. Consequently, the standard deviation for reviewed manuscripts' time to decision is quite large (43 days), and the median is more meaningful than the mean. The median time to decision for reviewed manuscripts is, to date, and despite the ongoing pandemic, 80 days—less than our target of 3 months.

Initial Decisions

All manuscripts received between June 15, 2020, and June 15, 2021, have received initial decisions. We first present data on desk rejections and then on revised manuscripts. When reviewing the data below, please recall that the editor-in-chief conducts the initial review of all manuscripts without knowledge of the authors' identity.

Initial Evaluation/Desk Rejection

Of 354 first-time submissions, 223 were desk-rejected (63%). Coauthored manuscripts were somewhat less likely to be desk-rejected (59.7%) than were solo-authored manuscripts (64.8%). More experienced authors (with doctorate) were less likely to be desk-rejected (59.7%) than were less experienced authors (72.1%). Per Table 5, authors from North America (48.4%) and Western Europe (52.5%) were less likely be desk-rejected than authors located in other regions (with the exception of Oceania).

Table 5. Author Region and Initial Evaluation Outcomes

Author Region	Submissions	Desk Rejections	Desk Reject (%)
North America	188	91	48.40%
Latin America	9	8	88.89%
Western Europe	80	42	52.50%
Rest of Europe	103	88	85.44%
Asia	108	76	70.37%
Africa	22	22	100.00%
Oceania	26	14	53.85%

Despite the anonymous nature of the initial evaluation process, there were nevertheless some notable differences by author gender. Per Table 6, male authors were desk rejected at a somewhat lower rate (61.1%) than were female authors (68.2%). Articles solo-authored by men were desk rejected at a rather lower rate (62.4%) than those solo-authored by women (75%), and those coauthored by all-women teams (77.8%) were desk rejected at a much higher rate than those coauthored by all-men teams (57.8%).

Table 6. Author Pronouns and Initial Evaluation Outcomes

Pronoun	Submissions	Desk Rejections	Desk Reject (%)
Him	409	250	61.12%
Her	123	84	68.29%
Them/Ze/Other	0	0	
Prefer Not to Say	4	3	75.00%
Solo-authored (Him)	186	116	62.37%
Co-authored (Him)	64	37	57.81%
Gender-inclusive	51	30	58.82%
Co-authored (Her)	9	7	77.78%
Solo-authored (Her)	44	33	75.00%

Troubled by these discrepancies, the *Security Studies* editorial team conducted a more detailed analysis of the data. The differences in gender desk-reject rates seem largely to be attributable to location and rank. Female authors were somewhat more likely to be junior scholars: 68% of women submitting authors reported having a doctorate, compared to 75% of the men submitting authors. It is hardly surprising that less experienced authors, who are less deeply socialized to fieldwide norms, would be desk rejected at higher rates. Female authors were also over-represented from certain regions, notably Eastern Europe, with higher desk-reject rates (Table 7). That author location is associated with desk rejection is also not especially surprising. Our field has become increasingly global, and *Security Studies* has received increasing submissions from around the world (though the journal continues to receive very few submissions from certain regions, like Latin America and Africa). However, it seems clear that fieldwide norms of scholarly composition have diffused unevenly as well.

In a multivariate regression, author gender was not a significant predictor of desk-rejection when location and rank controls were included. The variable "her" is far from being statistically significant at conventional levels *(p=.36)*, meaning that author gender was not a significant predictor of desk rejection. In contrast, having a doctorate is significantly associated with a lower likelihood of desk rejection. In addition, authors located in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Asia were significantly more likely to be desk rejected than authors located in North America (the base category) (Table 8).

Table 7. Author Pronoun and Region

	Her	Her (%)	Him	Him (%)
North America	46	38%	136	34%
Latin America	3	2%	6	1%
Western Europe	17	14%	65	16%
Rest of Europe	37	30%	69	17%
Asia	11	9%	91	23%
Africa	1	1%	16	4%
Oceania	7	6%	19	5%

Table 8. Predictors of Author Desk Rejection: Logit Analysis

VARIABLES	(1) Desk Reject
Her	0.228
	(0.248)
Doctorate	-0.572**
	(0.242)
Latin America	2.092*
	(1.132)
Western Europe	0.0864
	(0.317)
Rest of Europe	1.868***
	(0.386)
Asia	0.952***
	(0.354)
Africa	-
Oceania	0.202
	(0.515)
Constant	0.314
	(0.264)
N	515

Robust standard errors in parentheses
*** $p<0.01$, ** $p<0.05$, * $p<0.1$

Reviewed Manuscripts

Of 354 first-time submissions, 131 (37%) were sent out for review. The initial decisions on these 131 reviewed manuscripts appear below (Table 9). Overall, in the first round of evaluation, *Security Studies* rejected 88.1% of manuscripts (89), and granted a decision of revise and resubmit, or better, to 11.9% of manuscripts (42).

Table 9. Submitted Manuscript Initial Decisions

Decision	N	%
Desk Reject	223	62.99%
Reject after Review	89	25.14%
Revise & Resubmit	38	10.73%
Accept with Major or Minor Revisions	4	1.13%

Of the 42 manuscripts that received an initial decision of revise and resubmit, or better, a final disposition has been reached in 24 cases. These manuscripts' final disposition appears below

(Table 10). We will report the very final disposition of all 2020-2021 manuscripts in the 2023 *Security Studies* Editor's Report.

Table 10. Revised Manuscripts—Final/Current Status

Decision	N
Accept	18
Reject	6
Still in process	17
Withdrawn	1

As one would expect, once articles were accepted for review, discrepancies across gender, location, and rank disappeared, reversed, or were at least reduced. Although women authors were slightly more likely to be desk-rejected than were men authors, this was not the case with respect to reviewed manuscripts. Among reviewed authors, 69.2% of men received a rejection, and 30.8% received a decision of R&R or better. Among reviewed authors, 59.0% of women received a rejection, and 41.0% received a decision of R&R or better. Among reviewed manuscripts, the most successful by far were those coauthored by both men and women. These manuscripts were rejected just 52.4% of the time, and received a decision of R&R or better 47.6% of the time (Table 11).

Table 11. Author Pronoun and Reviewed Manuscript Outcomes

Gender	Reject after review	Reject after review (%)	R&R or better	R&R or better (%)
Him	110	69.18%	49	30.82%
Her	23	58.97%	16	41.03%
Solo-authored (Him)	48	68.57%	22	31.43%
Co-authored (Him)	20	74.07%	7	25.93%
Co-authored (Mixed)	11	52.38%	10	47.62%
Co-authored (Her)	2	100.00%	0	0.00%
Solo-authored (Her)	8	72.73%	3	27.27%

As during the initial evaluation/desk reject stage, reviewed manuscripts with more senior authors were more successful in the review process than those with more junior authors, but the discrepancy was smaller among reviewed manuscripts. Among reviewed manuscripts, authors with a doctorate were rejected at 66.3% rate, and those without a doctorate received a rejection 71.8% of the time.

Among reviewed manuscripts, outcomes by region were quite unpredictable. A relatively small number of manuscripts whose authors were located in Eastern Europe were externally reviewed, but, of those that were, 46.7% received a decision of R&R or better—exceeding the 40.2% rate among authors located in North America. Nearly half of articles submitted by authors in Western Europe were externally reviewed, but just 15.8% received a decision of R&R or better (Table 12).

Table 12. Author Region and Reviewed Manuscript Outcomes

Author Region	Reject after review	Reject after review (%)	R&R or better	R&R or better (%)
North America	58	59.79%	39	40.21%
Latin America	1	100.00%	0	0.00%
Western Europe	32	84.21%	6	15.79%
Rest of Europe	8	53.33%	7	46.67%
Asia	27	84.38%	5	15.63%
Oceania	8	66.67%	4	33.33%

Editor-Controlled Website

In summer 2020, the new editorial team established an editor-controlled website, securitystudiesjournal.org. This website hosts the journal's mission statement, information on the editorial team, journal policies, and extensive guidance for authors. The journal's Taylor & Francis publisher-controlled site directs prospective authors to the editor-controlled website.

Between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, securitystudiesjournal.org had 6,615 visits, 5,141 unique visitors, and 9,954 page views. Monthly visits ranged from a low of 388 (March) to 895 (October). Visits originated in 99 different countries, with the top 10 accounting for around 73% of visits (Table 13).

Table 13. Website Visit Origins

Country	No. Visits	% of Visits
United States	3,087	46.7%
United Kingdom	530	8.01%
Germany	216	3.27%
Turkey	183	2.77%
Australia	176	2.66%
Canada	161	2.43%
India	152	2.30%
S. Korea	133	2.01%
Sweden	108	1.63%
China	104	1.57%

The journal homepage garnered the most hits (4,658), but our extensive guidance for authors received the next most views: 1,783. Our two special calls drew significant numbers of visitors to the site: our 2020 call on "Race and Security" had 796 views in 2021, and our new 2021 call on "Climate Change and Security" had 1,216 views.