

Publishing in a Time of COVID-19: A Message to Our Readers, Authors, Reviewers and Production Team

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As editors of *Public Policy and Administration*, we know the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all our lives in myriad ways. For some colleagues, research continues undimmed. Yet, we appreciate that many of our authors' may need more time for submissions and revisions. Should you need extra time please do not hesitate to contact the editors and we can make arrangements with you and then update our online reminder system.

It is also becoming clear that while the Covid-19 pandemic is touching every one of us, the burdens of this crisis are not shared equally. The equality and diversity implications are very real in both our personal lives and also our professional opportunities. Specifically, concerns that many women's capacity to research and publish their work has taken a huge hit overnight are being [voiced across the academy](#) (Minello 2020). Journal editors in STEM subjects have been particularly alert to an [alarming drop-off](#) in submissions from women (Kitchener 2020). Let us reassure colleagues we are monitoring *PPA's* submissions carefully. The data (based on the submitting author's gender) – comparing submissions made in March, April and May 2019 and 2020 respectively – do not show any fall for women or men. This matches what our colleagues at [Political Studies Association](#) and [JPART](#) are reporting (Awan-Scully and Dunlop 2020 and Feeney 2020 respectively).

This does not mean, though, that there is 'nothing to see here'. Longer research and writing times in the social sciences suggests that the EDI impacts of Covid-19 on publishing may remain invisible for some months. Given this, we will continue to track the data each month and work with the Public Administration Committee (PAC) and publisher SAGE to do what we can to mitigate those being disproportionately impacted.

Finally, we extend our sincerest thanks to everyone behind the scenes for keeping the publishing 'show on the road'. In particular, our reviewers, colleagues at PAC and production colleagues at SAGE are working incredibly hard in these unprecedented times. You have been grace under pressure and we thank you all!

Please accept the best wishes of everyone at *PPA* for your continued wellbeing and happiness.

References

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