

Quarterly Report of the Publications Council of NCA

Submitted by John Sloop, Publications Council Chair

May 28, 2024

1. The Publications Council found itself with only 2 submissions for 6 journal editorships at the Leadership Retreat in January. As a result, the Council spent a lot of energy soliciting applications and then vetting those applications and submitting recommendations to the Executive Committee. As you are aware, we ultimately named six new editor elects.
2. This process as led the PC to take on a new project of thinking through different ways to broaden the pool of applicants, both in general and with an eye on diversifying the pool. At the business meeting at NCA, we plan on a discussion on distribution of the call and of thinking through any of the roadblocks that discourage people from applying to edit journals. Members of the Council have been asked to investigate this anecdotally and through research of other organizations. We plan on an active statement being written to encourage a wider pool this year at NCA.

In addition, because of a number of issues raised concerning special issues, the Council has been asked to take up this question as well at the NCA business meeting.

3. Publications Council has put together a number of panels at NCA this year focusing on issues related to publishing. We will host a number of experts who will discuss the pros and cons of Open Science, as well as a number who will provide blueprints regarding the review process at journals. To prepare for the Open Science panel, the panelists have distributed some readings to each other. The first panel will be staffed by leaders in open science (both for and against) and the second by current editors of NCA journals.

Editors and editor elects have been asked to attend the Scholars Office Hours at NCA precisely to meet with authors and potential editors.

Additionally, we have requested an additional pane featuring editors and representatives from a wide range of University Presses to discuss the book publication process (preparation, solicitation, reviewing) at NCA.

4. With the aid of Dane Clausen and Fiona Richmond of T & F, we have edited and updated the Editors Manual for NCA and the Publications Council Manual. These are currently being considered by the members of the Publications Council prior to submitting to the Editor-elects.

5. Outside of these projects by the Council itself, the Chair of the Council has remained busy responding to questions from current editors and concerns/thoughts raised by authors who have hit bumps in the submission/review process.