Preface from the New Editor-in-Chief

Thomas W. Pullum

Published online: 8 April 2009
© Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2009

This issue of *Population Research and Policy Review* is the first to appear under my editorship. The previous editor, Professor David Swanson of the University of California at Riverside, as well as the editor before him, Professor Elwood Carlson of Florida State University, have helped to develop *PRPR* into a prominent international journal for population research. The journal is affiliated with a regional professional association in the United States, the Southern Demographic Association (SDA), but its authors, reviewers, editorial board, and readers represent all regions of the world. The publisher, Springer, and particularly Evelien Bakker and Marielle Klijn, have also made outstanding contributions to the growing reputation of the journal.

Population Research and Policy Review encourages submissions under a very comprehensive definition of population research and a wide range of data and methodologies. It is expected that submissions will have an explicit connection with population policy at some level. It is preferred, although not necessary, that authors connect with research topics that have previously appeared in this journal.

Thanks to the Editorial Manager software used by our publisher, the submission and review process is now entirely online. Soon after the online submission of a paper to the website, two potential reviewers are contacted. The review process is entirely blind, in the sense that reviewers do not know the names or affiliations of authors, and authors do not know the names or affiliations of reviewers. Potential reviewers sometimes take a long time simply to acknowledge the email inviting them to do a review, and after agreeing to do a review they sometimes take a long time to provide it; sometimes they never do so. Most delays arise from these sources. Authors can monitor the progress of their paper on the website. If it appears to be stuck, emails to the journal are in order and will receive a prompt response.

T. W. Pullum (✉)
Department of Sociology and Population Research Center,
The University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA
e-mail: tom.pullum@mail.utexas.edu

Authors should understand that virtually every paper that is eventually accepted goes through at least one round of revisions, and sometimes two. During this phase of the process, it is important to give a serious response to the issues raised by reviewers. If at all possible, the original reviewers will go over the new version, but revision does not guarantee acceptance.

After a paper has been accepted, copy editing is done by Springer. Authors may be asked to make some clarifications, etc., and then will be able to examine page proofs. An advantage of online publishing is that accepted papers are available on the website even before they have been officially allocated to a specific issue. Indeed, visitors are specifically encouraged to look at articles in that category.

Finally, on behalf of myself, the deputy editors, the editorial board, the SDA, and Springer, I want to convey our general thanks to the authors and reviewers. It is they who have primary responsibility for the actual content and the success of *Population Research and Policy Review*.