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EDITORIAL

12 Years of PACA: A Review of Trends in PACA Publications

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It was only 6 years ago that the founding editors of the journal, Jeff Smith, Lisa Smith, and James Kaufman, handed over *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* (PACA) to our editorial team. Now, our 6-year editorial term comes to an end, and it is a bittersweet feeling. We are proud to be a part of this vibrant community and contribute to the growth of the journal, and we are excited to see the new heights that will be achieved by Oshin Vartanian and Thalia Goldstein, the incoming editors, with the support of the associate editors Marcos Nadal, Baptiste Barbot, and Zorana Ivcevic. We are happy not to have to make any more difficult editorial decisions! But any goodbye is hard. This transition provides us with the perfect occasion to take stock and evaluate how far the journal has come. We would like to take this opportunity to summarize and review the journal from its inception and first volume in 2006 to date. In our review, we will focus on a number of factors such as number of submissions, number of papers published, keywords used, special issues developed, and journal reach. In all of these, you can see a reflection of the growth and development of our journal, our division, and our field.

First, let's take a look at submission rates. In the first year, there were 72 submissions, and the number of submissions over the years has fluctuated from 63 in 2009 to a high of 169 papers in 2015. Table 1 shows the number of submissions from 2007 to 2017. The numbers indicate a significant rise in article submissions over the last 12 years. To accommodate the increasing number of submissions, the number of pages per year has increased from 250 pages in the first year to 500 pages currently. Similarly, the number of published papers per year increased from 35–45 in the first few years to around 60 papers. The number of institutional subscriptions (both print and electronic) has also increased from 2,878 in the first year of the journal to 3,746 in 2016.

An important index of journal success is its impact factor. There are two kinds of impact factors: one that is based on a 2-year publication cycle, and one that is based on a 5-year publication cycle. The latter one is considered more stable and more indicative of a journal's impact. The first 2-year impact factor was calculated in 2011 and was 1.23, which put the journal at number 58 out of 84 journals in the experimental psychology category. One important note about the 2-year impact factor is that we expected some decrease as the number of papers published has increased, a result of how the impact factor is calculated, which has happened. The first 5-year impact factor

was provided in 2014 and was 2.67, and it has steadily increased. Table 2 provides information about both the 2-year and 5-year impact factors.

The journal has also published a number of special issues or special sections. In 2007, there was the special issue, “In Honor of Rudolf Arnheim’s Centenary.” In 2009, there was a special issue that focused on “New Scholars in the Field.” Many of the contributors in that issue are now well known researchers and include the current and incoming editors! In 2011, there was a special issue on “The Psychology of Creativity and Innovation in the Workplace,” and in 2013, we saw the publication of the special issue, “Toward an Interdisciplinary Neuro-aesthetics.” In 2014, we published a special section on “Replication in Psychology,” and in 2015 a special issue on “Creativity and Education.” Finally, in 2016, we had a special section on “Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts in Everyday Life.”

Finally, we thought it would be instructive to identify the various keywords that have been used over time in PACA. The most common keywords of course are not surprising: “creativity” (top keyword for every issue), aesthetics (2nd most popular keyword), and art (3rd most popular keyword). In addition, “psychology” tends to be mentioned frequently. Removing these common keywords from the list, we then evaluated the top keywords for each issue and any keywords that appeared at least 10 times across the 11 volumes of PACA that we reviewed. As you can see, the breadth of the journal is reflected in the variety of keywords that emerged overall (see Tables 3 and 4).

The journal, as it stands today, is a reflection of the growth of our field and the vibrancy of our community. We have truly enjoyed serving as editors of PACA, and we thank the readers, contributors, and production and editorial teams for being with us during the past 6 years.

Table 1
Submission Rates

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Submissions	72	131	63	85	84	87	109	161	169	149	128

Table 2
Impact Factor and Journal Ranking Information

Year	2-year IF	5-year IF	Journal ranking
2011	1.23	58/84	
2012	1.53	51/83	
2013	1.787	41/83	
2014	3.054	2.672	17/85
2015	2.224	2.754	32/85
2016	1.86	2.751	46/84

Note. IF = impact factor.

Table 3
Top Keywords Frequencies by Year

2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency
Rudolf Arnheim	5	Divergent thinking	10	Personality	4	Emotion	5	Innovation	6	Divergent thinking	6
Visual thinking	4	Generalizability theory	9	Film	3	Personality	4	Organizations	6	Expertise	4
Gestalt	3	Reliability	9	Problem solving	3	Genes	3	Divergent thinking	4	Assessment	3
Perception	3	Validity	9			Music	3	Personality	4	Individual differences	3
								Torrance tests	4	Personality	3
										Visual arts	3
2013		2014		2015		2016		2017			
Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency	Keyword	Frequency
Music	5	Replication	9	Divergent thinking	7	Divergent thinking	5	Personality	6		
Neuroaesthetics	5	NHST	8	Personality	5	Emotion	3	Divergent thinking	6		
Aesthetic experience	4	Peer review	8	Innovation	4			Experience sampling	4		
Expertise	3	Power	8	Music	4			Intelligence	4		
Individual differences	3	Statistics	8					Measurement	4		
Painting	3	Personality	5								

Note. NHST = null hypothesis significance testing.

Table 4
Top Keyword Frequency Totals 2007–2017

Keyword	Frequency
Divergent thinking	40
Personality	33
Music	25
Emotion	23
Expertise	19
Openness to Experience	17
Drawing	15
Intelligence	15
Cognition	14
Innovation	14
Individual differences	13
Painting	12
Empathy	11
Film	11
Reliability	11
Validity	11
Visual Arts	11
Artists	10
Motivation	10
Problem solving	10