1. General Overview

This is the second editorial report of the current editorial team under the five-year editorial contract with IARIW which commenced on August 1, 2009. The highlights of the report are the following:

- submissions continue to increase, from 137 in 2007 (1/08/2007–31/07/2008) to now 183 in the last Editorial year ending July 31, 2011 (1/08/2010–31/07/2011) (14 more than the previous Editorial year, confirming the trend);
- the response times keep improving: in the last two years 51% of dossiers received a first decision within the first three months;
- the impact factor is at 0.75 (it was 0.77 last year), placing the RIW in the second quartile of economics journals listed in the SSCI.

The number of submissions has grown from about 137 in 2007/08, to 169 in 2009/10 to 183 in 2010/11. There is a continued upward trend, showing rising interest in publishing in the Review. This has also led to an increased rejection rate of articles which now stands at around 82% (see comments below).

In addition, and partly as a result of increasing submissions, the RIW allowed page numbers of the journal to rise. The number of pages published was 768 in 2007, and it reached 792 in 2010. At the IARIW Editorial Board Meeting held in St. Gallen on August 23, 2010, it was agreed that the number of pages per volume will be 800. We expect issue 57 will reach the 800 pages threshold, since, with the December issue still missing, the number of published pages already stands at 599.

The number of published original articles in 2010 was 42 (it was 30 in 2007, 32 in 2008 and 43 in 2009). The first four issues of 2011 (three regular and a special one) account already for 34 papers. It is very likely that the total number of papers published in 2011 will therefore be higher than in 2010. Besides the regular 4 issues a year, in 2011 we have published a Special Issue on the The Informal Economy in Developing Countries: Analysis and Measurement.


The total number of citations of articles in the Review in SSCI journals has risen from 328 in 2007 to 591 in 2010. The rather long citation half-life indicates that articles in the Review are cited for a long time, suggesting the presence of seminal articles that are still cited decades later. The SSCI impact factor in a given year is based on a subset of citations, considering only the citations of articles...
published in the previous two volumes. These citations have risen with respect to 2009 to a level of 51 citations in 2010, i.e. in 2010 there were 51 citations in SSCI journals to articles published in the Review between 2008 and 2009. The impact factor, the ratio of these citations to the number of articles published in that year, consolidates the position of the Review after a few years of growth, which is also illustrated in Figure 1. As a result, the rank of the Review in the economics section of the SSCI has improved considerably, from 105 of 191 in 2007 to 151 of 304 journals listed in 2010, moving from the III to the II quartile.

2. Status of Dossiers

The dossiers handled during the reporting period are divided into four categories, namely dossiers submitted between 1 August 2007 and 31 July 2008,
dossiers submitted between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009, dossiers submitted between 1 August 2009 and 31 July 2010, and dossiers submitted between 1 August 2010 and July 31, 2011 (see Table 2).

There was a consistent increase in the number of submitted dossiers over the past few years. Two further features are noteworthy. First, the number of open dossiers submitted prior to 2010 is rather small, and mostly due to relatively lengthy intervals between a first decision and a resubmission. Second, the rejection rate, based only on the number of completed dossiers, is still growing with respect to the previous Editorial year, and it is now at 97%. This has to be treated with some caution, however, as many of the open dossiers (many of which have received a favorable first decision) are likely to be accepted eventually, thus reducing the rejection rate.

The review articles section continued to add interesting and wide-ranging review articles. The reviews editor, Thesia Garner, has succeeded in publishing a book review for each Volume (55 Issue 4, 56 Issue 2 and 57 Issue 3) and others are in the pipeline.

Table 3 shows decision times on dossiers in the four years under analysis. It particularly shows the dramatic improvement in response times in the past two Editorial years. 51% of dossiers have received a first response in three months or less, and 66% in less than six months. If we restrict the sample to the Rejected papers, however, the response times are on average just above a month (40 days), and only two weeks on average for a Summarily Rejection decision.

Given the time it takes occasionally to find referees willing to undertake a review and the inevitable lags in responses from some referees, such a short response time is about as fast as is currently possible.

On the whole, the distribution of submissions across topic areas and regions has remained relatively stable (see Table 4). Measurement of poverty, inequality, and distribution continues to be the topic of over 40% of submissions, while for other subject areas, submissions are much more volatile. In Table 5 and Table 6, we introduce the division according to JEL-code classification. We analyze the first choice in the list of JEL-codes inserted by authors (list which varies from 1 to 7), and we report in the tables only choices found in three or more submitted articles.

![Table 2](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (01/08–31/07)</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
<th>completed</th>
<th>accepted</th>
<th>rejected</th>
<th>of which summarily rejected</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Rejection rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007–08</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–09</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–10</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
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</table>

*Note: we exclude submissions for the special issues.*
It confirms the importance of poverty and inequality as well as measurement issues at the micro (and also at the macro level) as key topic areas of submissions.

In terms of geographical origin, about half of all submissions come from Europe, a fifth from North America and a third from the rest of the world. After a shift of submissions towards regions outside of Europe and the US
36% in 2008/09), the share of submissions from those regions has fallen in the most recent periods to 30%, but remains absolutely high at 55 submissions.

### 3. Relation with Blackwell Publishing

Increases in subscription prices were very low in the past five years, reflecting the policy of the Association to maximize readership of the Review. Financially, the Review continues to be on a sound footing.

### 4. Editorial Issues

After more than 7 years in the position of Co-Managing Editor, Stephan Klasen has asked the Association to be released from his current contract as
competing commitments would make it difficult for him to continue his assignment with the required diligence. In consultation with the other Co-Managing Editors and the Association, he will step down from his role as Co-Managing Editor on December 31, 2011. Conchita D’Ambrosio and Robert Hill will take over the dossiers managed by him and serve out the term as the two remaining Co-Managing Editors until August 2014. Stephan Klasen would like to thank his co-editors, the editorial offices, the publishers, the Association, and the many referees for constructive collaboration over the past seven years. They all contributed to ensuring that the Review has become a very appealing journal that attracts many high quality submissions and great interest from its readers.

5. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the IARIW, including particularly Andrew Sharpe and the IARIW Secretariat at CSLS, for their support throughout the past year. We also thank the team at Wiley-Blackwell, in particular Hester Tilbury, Carmen Sherry, and Ruth Oh for constructive cooperation, efficient production and effective management of all publishing-related matters. We also want to thank our members of the Editorial Board as well as the many referees without whom running such a peer-reviewed publication would not be possible, and Lars Osberg for his time and dedication as the long-standing book reviews editor. Many thanks to Lidia Ceriani (Università Bocconi) for running the editorial office in Milan. We are also grateful to Sabine Jaep (University of Göttingen) and Miriam Steurer (University of Graz) for running the side-office in Göttingen and Graz, respectively.

Conchita D’Ambrosio, managing editor
Robert Hill, managing editor
Stephan Klasen, managing editor

August 2011
Review of Income and Wealth

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