

# Review of Income and Wealth

## 2007 Report of the Managing Editors

### (covering period 01/08/06 to 31/07/07)

#### 1. Introduction

Over the past 12 months, the Review has been doing very well on several counts. Over the reporting period, we put out four issues, of which one special issue on *Inequality and Poverty and China* (2007:1). In total we published 27 full articles, 2 notes/comments, 1 book review, as well as the Second Ruggles lecture by Sir Anthony B. Atkinson on "The Long Run Earnings Distribution in Five Countries: "Remarkable Stability," U, V or W" (2007:1). Seven articles were published in a special issue on Inequality and Poverty in China (2007:1), which resulted from a conference which on this topic which had taken place in April 2005 at UNU WIDER in Helsinki. In total these four issues covered 713 pages, reflecting our increase in page budget from 640 to 720 pages.

Submissions to the journal were more or less stable at 112 submission from 1 August 2005 to 1 August 2006 (2005-2006) to 107 submissions from 1 August 2006 to 1 August 2007 (2006-2007). Our rejection rate for the period 2004-2006 was 74% on the basis of the present number of final decisions for 152 dossiers for those two years. At this moment too few dossiers are closed to determine a reliable rejection rate for 2006-2007.

In 2006 the impact factor, based on citations in 2006 to articles published in the two previous years, increased from 0.283 to 0.566, increasing the Review's rank by 40 places to the 106<sup>th</sup> place out of 175 journals. It should be stressed, however, that it is recommended to look at impact over a longer period of time. On average the 2-year impact factor over the past six years has been approximately 0.4. It would also be useful to track the citations per published article over a longer period.

Important new initiatives during the reporting period included:

- 1) the introduction of a notes & comments section for shorter pieces, which either are of a more descriptive nature or that make one key point related to the literature.
- 2) the provision of one free downloadable article per issue
- 3) the introduction of early on-line publishing, i.e. publication of articles on the Blackwell website before it is printed in the journal.

#### 2. Status of dossiers

The dossiers handled during the reporting period may be divided into three categories, namely dossiers submitted before 1 August 2004, dossiers submitted between 1 August 2004 and 31 July 2006 and dossiers submitted between 1 August 2006 and 31 July August 2007.

##### Dossiers received from former editor

Total number of manuscripts:	Received:	58	(100%)*
	Completed:	49	(85%)
	Accepted:	27	
	Rejected:	22	
	Still open:	9	(15%)

\* these only concern dossiers still in open on 1 August 2006

Dossiers received between 1 August 2004 - 1 August 2006\*

Total number of manuscripts: Received: 218 (100%)  
Completed: 152 (70%)  
Accepted: 39  
Rejected: 113  
Still open: 66 (30%)

Present rejection rate for 1 August 2004 - 1 August 2006 dossiers: 74%

\* excluding 6 articles plus an introduction published in the special issue on *Inequality and Multidimensional Well-being* (2005:2)

Dossiers received between 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007\*

Total number of manuscripts: Received: 107 (100%)  
Completed: 11 (90%)  
Accepted: 0  
Rejected: 11  
Still open: 96 (10%)

\* excluding 7 articles plus an introduction published in the special issue on *Inequality and Poverty in China* (2007:1) and the text of the Second Ruggles Lecture by Sir Anthony Atkinson on "The Long Run Earnings Distribution in Five Countries: "Remarkable Stability," U, V or W"

A. Distribution by Subject of dossiers received between 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007

1. National and social accounting	Received: 15
2. Measurement of poverty, inequality and well-being	Received: 22
3. Micro and macro analysis of issues related to income and wealth and its distribution	Received: 45
4. Development and integration of micro and macro systems of economic, financial and social statistics	Received: 7
5. International and intertemporal analysis of income, wealth, and productivity	Received: 16
6. Related problems of measurement and statistical methodology	Received: 2

B. Distribution by Region of Origin of dossiers received between 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007

1. Europe	Received: 59	( %)
2. North America	Received: 19	( %)
3. Asia, Australia	Received: 12	( %)
4. Rest of the world	Received: 17	( %)

#### **4. Editors' issues**

A downside of the success of the journal in terms of submission is the increased workload for the editors. The situation has become more difficult since one of the editors, Bart van Ark, is presently not available for his academic position on a full-time basis. At the editors' proposal, the Council has therefore agreed to appoint Marcel Timmer (University of Groningen) as "associate managing editor" to the Review as of Spring 2007.

The editors have also proposed to the Council of the Association to appoint a third managing editor. This new managing editor would in particular cover the increasing number of dossiers in the area of wealth creation and distribution, social security, retirement savings, etc.. Concrete proposals will be made to the Council in due time.

#### **5. Relation with Blackwell Publishing**

In 2006, a new contract was agreed with the Blackwell Publishing covering 7 years for the period 2006-2012. Only a moderate price increase was negotiated with Blackwell, i.e. 3% for 2007 (also covering the page increase) and 0% for 2008. This reflects the policy of the Association to maximize readership of the Review. In February 2007, Blackwell Publishing was merged with Wiley's Global Scientific, Technical, and Medical business, forming the Wiley-Blackwell group.

An Executive Summary of the 2006 Publishing report for the Review by Blackwell is provided in the appendix to this report.

#### **6. Acknowledgements**

We want to thank IARIW, including particularly Andrew Sharpe and the IARIW secretariat, for their support throughout the past two years. 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. Finally, we are very grateful to Astrid van der Veen (University of Groningen) and Sabine Jaap (University of Göttingen) for running the editorial office in Groningen and the side-office in Göttingen respectively.

September 2007

Bart van Ark, managing editor

Stephan Klasen, managing editor

Marcel Timmer, associate managing editor

## **Executive summary**

Significant achievements in 2006 for *The Review of Income and Wealth* include:

### **Circulation**

- **An increase in circulation by 24% since 2005.** In total, 3,687 libraries offered access to *The Review of Income and Wealth* either through a traditional subscription or via the Blackwell sales programme to consortia libraries.
- **1350 developing world institutions** have access to *Review of Income and Wealth* through free or low-paid access.

### **Readership**

- **"The Ins and Outs of Poverty in Advanced Economics: Government Policy and Poverty Dynamics in Canada, Germany, Great Britain and the United States"** by Robert G. Valletta was the most accessed article in 2006 with **662 downloads**.
- **An email promotion to 16,200 selected contacts** resulting in 4430 (around 25%) of recipients opening the emails, and 5% accessing articles or downloading information.
- *The Review of Income and Wealth* was further promoted through a 'top article' email campaign for our development studies programme which was sent to 9000 academics and practitioners.

### **Finances**

- **An increase in total income for *The Review of Income and Wealth* in 2006 of 22%, to £133,494.**
- **Total sum received by the IARIW in 2006, £69,387; a 31% increase (£16,558) over the sum received by the Association in 2005.**

### **Other achievements:**

- **In March 2006, Blackwell was the first global publisher to become Carbon Neutral and make a commitment to reducing our impact on the environment.**

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Stephan Klasen, Germany

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Marcel Timmer, Netherlands

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