

This past summer I was asked by the President of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA) if I would be willing to serve a three-year term as co-editor of *Population Research and Policy Review (PRPR)*. *PRPR* is the flagship journal of the SDA and was established to represent social demography in its broadest interpretation and consider the implications of policies for population processes. The SDA Board was looking for a co-editor with a strong record of publication in the fields of family and demography. A few years ago the journal implemented a system of overlapping co-editors to preserve institutional knowledge and ease the process of reviewing manuscripts. I began my term as co-editor in January 2019 and am overlapping with Corey Sparks who has expertise in spatial and statistical demography with substantive interests in health and mortality.

As co-editor, I am responsible for making decisions about the publication of manuscripts to which I am assigned after obtaining advice from expert reviewers. This process involves identifying the ideal mix of scholars to review a submitted manuscript, obtaining their agreement to review it, and keeping track of their reviews. Once I have obtained 2 to 3 reviews for a manuscript, I have the option to reject it, conditionally accept it, or invite the author(s) to revise and resubmit the manuscript after addressing the comments and concerns of reviewers. Once the manuscript is revised and resubmitted, it undergoes a second round of reviews. Reviews for *PRPR* are double-blind which means only the editors know the identity of the author(s) and reviewers. This journal's review process is highly selective with a yearly acceptance rate that is typically lower than 20%.

I am fortunate to have a doctoral student from our department (BGSU Sociology), Lisa Carlson, assist me as the Managing Editor of *PRPR*. Lisa is helping me find the appropriate scholars to review manuscripts and ensure their reviews are received in a timely manner. She has a master's degree in Economic Demography from Lund University in Sweden. Laura Sanchez, a professor in our department, serves on the Editorial Board. Several affiliates of our NICHD-funded population center, the Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR), have a history of publishing in this journal. In fact, Distinguished Professor Wendy Manning (with former Ph.D. students Marshal Fetto and Esther Lamidi) published in *PRPR* the review of research she conducted on the well-being of children raised in same-sex parent families for an American Sociological Association Amicus Brief; this review was critical in the passage of the landmark case of *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

An important feature of *PRPR* is that it attracts submissions from scholars who represent multiple disciplines and substantive areas within the field of demography. Many of the submissions to this journal address the importance of context by examining variation across different time periods or levels of analysis (e.g., neighborhood, city, state, and nation). Unlike many other demography journals, *PRPR* publishes manuscripts that rely on methods less routinely used in population research (e.g., ethnography). Since its establishment in the early 1980s, this journal has been accepting full-length manuscripts as submissions. Just recently, *PRPR* announced that it will also accept research briefs that do not include a full-length front end. *PRPR* also welcomes each year proposals from scholars to serve as a guest editor for an issue on

a specific topic. I am proud to serve as co-editor of this journal given its strong reputation and look forward to the opportunity to read more widely within the field of demography.