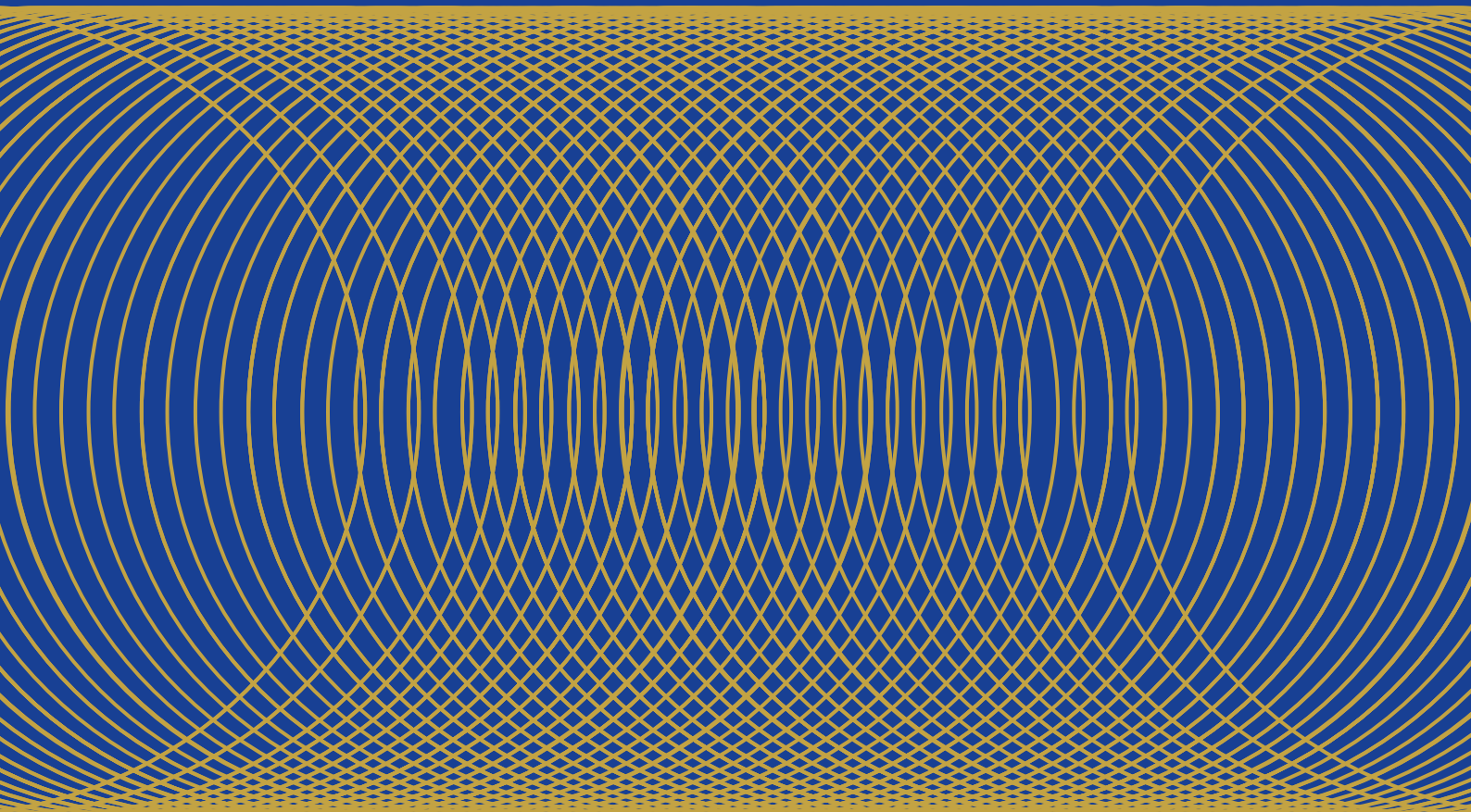


2024

BJPS

ANNUAL REPORT



BRITISH JOURNAL FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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The
**British
Journal**
for the
Philosophy
of
Science

EDITORS

Co-Editors-in-Chief

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Tim Lewens (incoming)

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Cameron Buckner

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Peter J Lewis

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Cédric Paternotte

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Jonah N Schupbach

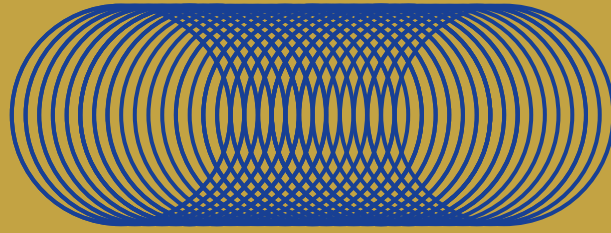
Daniel Steel

Emily Sullivan

Jackie Sullivan

Dana Tulodziecki

Alastair Wilson



THE BJPS POPPER PRIZE

The BJPS Popper Prize is awarded to the article judged to be the best published in that year's volume of the Journal, as determined by the Editors-in-Chief, in consultation with the Journal's Associate Editors and members of the BPS Committee.

ALEXANDER FRANKLIN & VANESSA A SEIFERT

'The Problem of Molecular Structure Just Is the Measurement Problem'

British Journal for the Philosophy of Science,
2024, 75, pp. 31-59

In 'The Problem of Molecular Structure Just Is the Measurement Problem', Franklin and Seifert argue that three foundational problems arising within quantum-mechanical explanations of chemical structure—chirality, the existence of isomers, and symmetry breaking—can be treated as aspects of the measurement problem in quantum mechanics. The authors contend that these results reduce the support these problems provide for anti-reductionist and emergentist positions. Although the measurement problem is unsolved, Franklin and Seifert explore how leading proposed solutions can address the foundational problems at issue.

This piece represents a ground-breaking unification of work in the foundations of physics and in the foundations of chemistry, thereby carving out new territory where these areas of enquiry overlap. It is a superb contribution to the philosophy of science, both in its detailed treatment of problems to do with molecular structure and in the way this treatment is brought to bear on the long-running debate over the emergent status of chemical phenomena. The editors applaud Franklin and Seifert's careful, insightful, and agenda-setting research, enthusiastically awarding them the 2024 Popper Prize.

Tim Lewens & Robert Rupert
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Honorable Mentions

TOBY FRIEND

'How to Be Humean about Symmetries'

British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, 2024, 75, pp. 971-92

MARCO MARTINEZ & DAVID TEIRA

'Why Experimental Balance Is Still a Reason to Randomize'

British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, 2024, 75, pp. 519-35



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Three Concepts of Actual Causation
ENNO FISCHER

Introspection Is Signal Detection
JORGE MORALES

Two Sources of Normativity in Enthusiastic Accounts of Kinds
RIANA J BETZLER

Normativity, Epistemic Rationality, and Noisy Statistical Evidence
BORIS BABIC, ANIL GABA, ILIA TSETLIN & ROBERT L WINKLER

The Evolution of Denial
LUCA INCURVATI & GIORGIO SBARDOLINI

Which Models of Scientific Explanation Are (In)Compatible
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YUNUS PRASETYA

Functionalism and the Emotions
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What, If Anything, Is Biological Altruism?
TOPAZ HALPERIN & ARNON LEVY

What's the Point of Authors?
JOSHUA HABGOOD-COOTE et al.

Why Experimental Balance Is Still a Reason to Randomize
MARCO MARTINEZ & DAVID TEIRA



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Objectivity and Underdetermination in Statistical Model Selection
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A Generalized Patchwork Approach to Scientific Concepts
PHILIPP HAUEIS

Introducing the Q-Based Interpretation of Quantum Theory
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Why Trust a Simulation? Models, Parameters,
and Robustness in Simulation-Infected Experiments
FLORIAN J BOGE

The Contents and Causes of Curiosity
PETER CARRUTHERS

Halpern and Pearl's Definition of Explanation Amended
JAN BORNER

The Idea of Mismatch in Evolutionary Medicine
PIERRICK BOURRAT & PAUL GRIFFITHS

The Counterpossibles of Science versus
the Science of Counterpossibles
DANIEL DOHRN

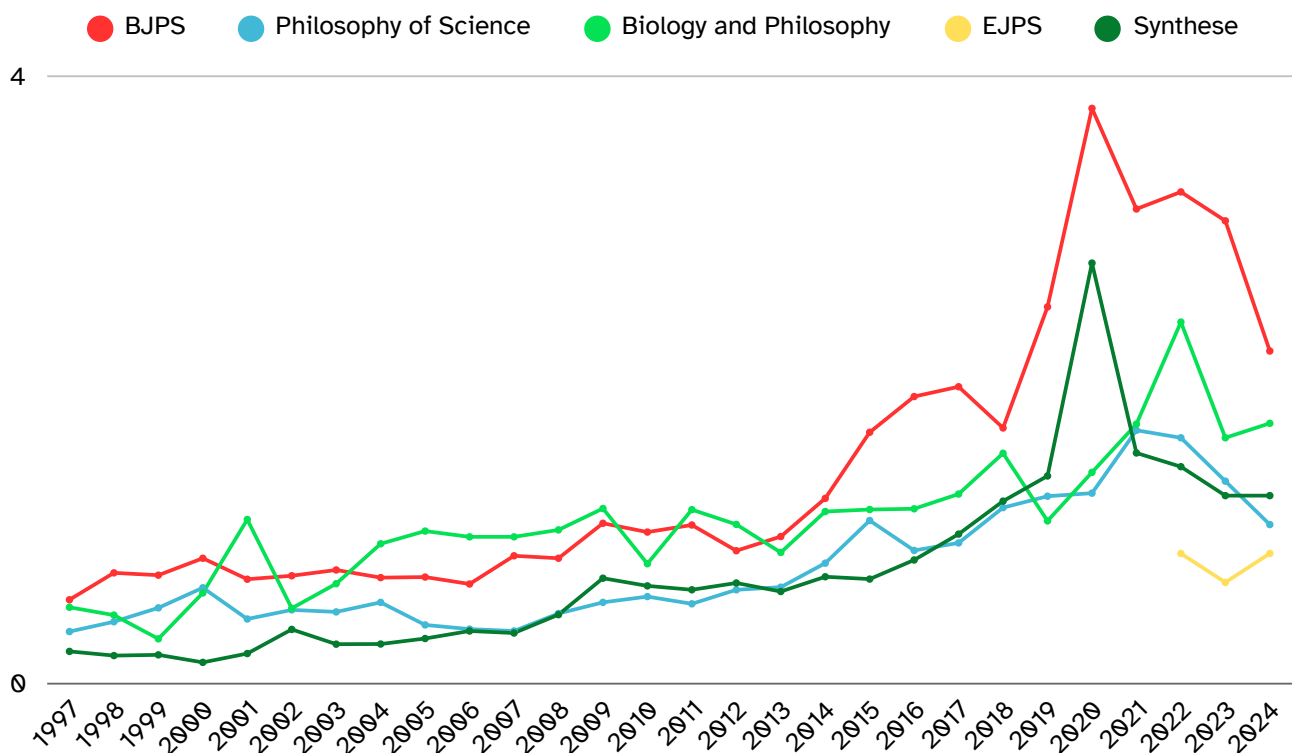
How to Be Humean about Symmetries
TOBY FRIEND

Explaining Scientific Collaboration:
A General Functional Account
THOMAS BOYER-KASSEM & CYRILLE IMBERT

JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR



| JOURNAL | JIF 2023 | JIF 2024 |
|--|----------|----------|
| British Journal for the Philosophy of Science | 3.2 | 2.3 |
| Biology & Philosophy | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| History & Philosophy of the Life Sciences | 1.6 | 1 |
| European Journal for Philosophy of Science | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Philosophy of Science | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Studies in the History & Philosophy of Science | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Synthese | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Journal for General Philosophy of Science | 1.2 | 0.9 |

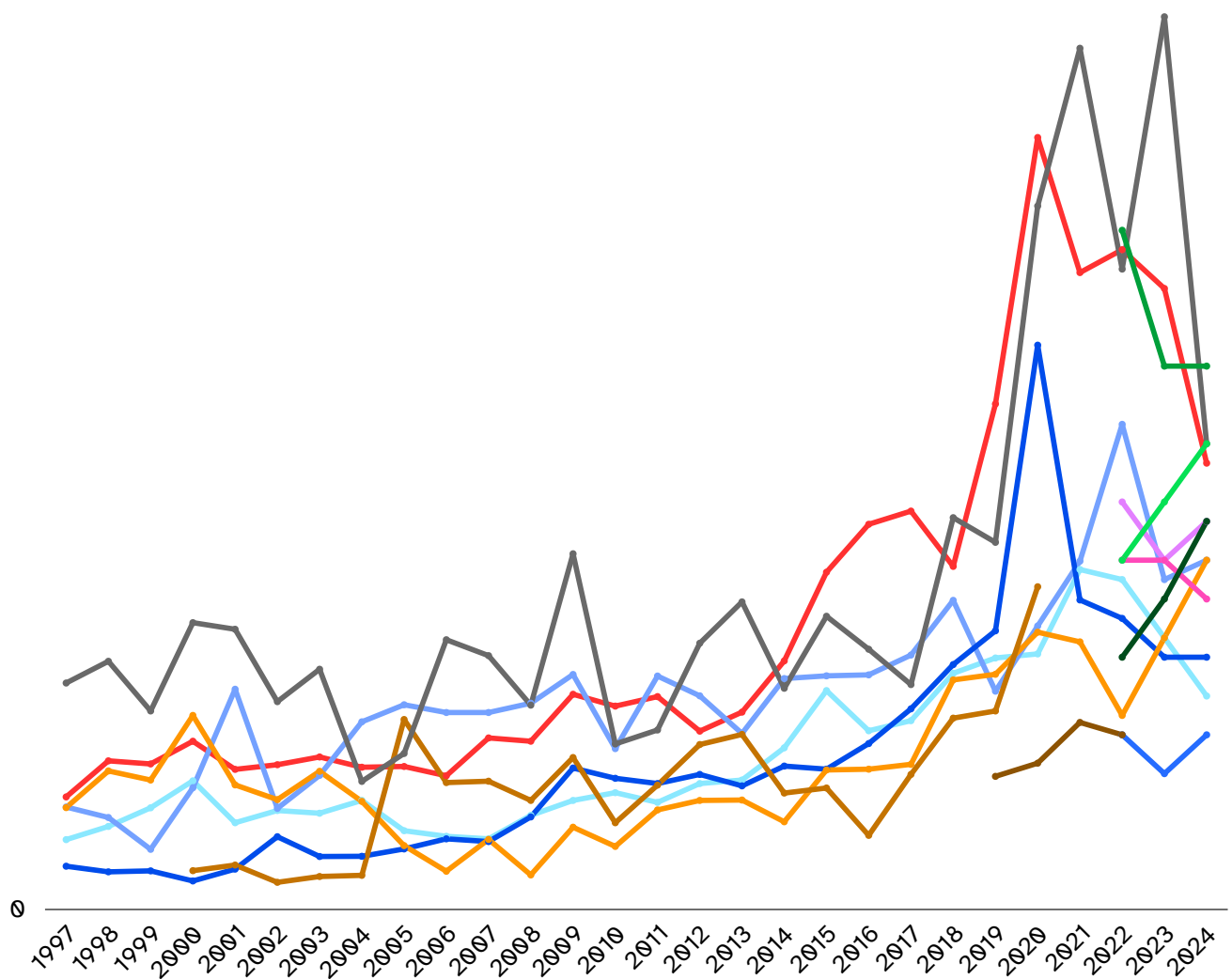


JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR



- BJPS
- Philosophy of Science
- Biology and Philosophy
- EJPS
- Synthese
- Studies (General)
- Studies (Physics)
- Studies (Biology)
- Ethics
- Nous
- Mind
- Philosophical Review
- Philosophy Compass
- Journal of Philosophy

5



SCIMAGO JOURNAL RANKINGS



| POSITION | JOURNAL | SJR | H-index |
|----------|--|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | Noûs | 2.795 | 88 |
| 4 | Mind | 1.978 | 71 |
| 5 | British Journal for the Philosophy of Science | 1.923 | 70 |
| 12 | Philosophy Compass | 1.533 | 47 |
| 30 | Synthese | 1.052 | 89 |
| 36 | European Journal for Philosophy of Science | 0.971 | 32 |
| 40 | Ergo | 0.945 | 51 |
| 53 | Biology and Philosophy | 0.815 | 62 |
| 67 | Philosophy of Science | 0.695 | 89 |
| 79 | Journal for General Philosophy of Science | 0.654 | 22 |

Notes

Scimago collects together a large number of journals under the label 'philosophy', many of which are not relevant for comparisons here.

In the table above, all philosophy of science journals are listed, as well as any generalist philosophy journals with a higher ranking than the BJPS.

The position column shows where each journal appears in the ranking (and indicates excluded titles).

GOOGLE SCHOLAR METRICS



| POSITION | JOURNAL | H5-INDEX | H5-MEDIAN |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| 1/1 | Synthese | 54 | 78 |
| 2/4 | Noûs | 34 | 63 |
| 3/ - (5) | British Journal for the Philosophy of Science | 34 | 63 |
| 4/ - (=9) | Philosophy of Science | 27 | 38 |
| 5/ - (10) | Studies in History and Philosophy of Science | 27 | 36 |
| 6/13 | Philosophers' Imprint | 24 | 49 |
| 7/14 | Erkenntnis | 24 | 35 |
| 8/ - (16) | European Journal for Philosophy of Science | 24 | 33 |
| 9/ - (19) | Studies in History and Philosophy of Science B | 22 | 36 |
| 12/ - | History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences | 20 | 26 |
| 18/ - | Journal for General Philosophy of Science | 16 | 24 |

Notes

Google Scholar generates two lists relevant to our purposes: 'epistemology and scientific history' and 'philosophy'. Some philosophy journals appear on both, but most are on one or the other. The BJPS, for example, appears only in the former list.

Relevant journals are combined in the table above, with their ranking in the respective tables given in the position column.

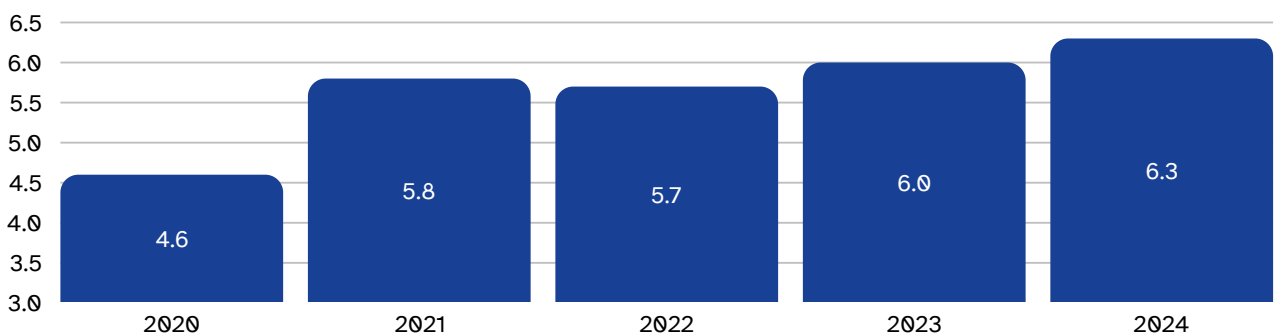
Bracketed numbers reflect where the journal would appear in the philosophy list, were the journal to be included.

CITESCORE



| JOURNAL | Score |
|---|-------|
| British Journal for the Philosophy of Science | 6.3 |
| Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences | 5.9 |
| Noûs | 5.6 |
| Philosophical Compass | 4.0 |
| Biology and Philosophy | 4.0 |
| Synthese | 4.1 |
| European Journal for Philosophy of Science | 3.6 |
| Philosophy and Phenomenological Research | 3.3 |
| Mind | 3.2 |
| History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences | 3.2 |
| Studies in History and Philosophy of Science | 3.2 |
| Philosophers Imprint | 2.5 |
| Foundations of Physics | 2.5 |
| Philosophy of Science | 1.8 |
| Ergo | 1.2 |

CiteScore per year



Notes

The BJPS appears on both the philosophy and the history and philosophy of science lists. In the philosophy list, the BJPS is ranked 13/854. In the HPS list, the BJPS is ranked 7/1850 journals.

PAPERS



HIGHLIGHTS

607 PAPERS

Total number of papers submitted

Up from 578 in 2023

486 original submissions

121 resubmissions

10%

Acceptance rate

Up from 9.5% in 2023

42 DAYS

Average time to decision

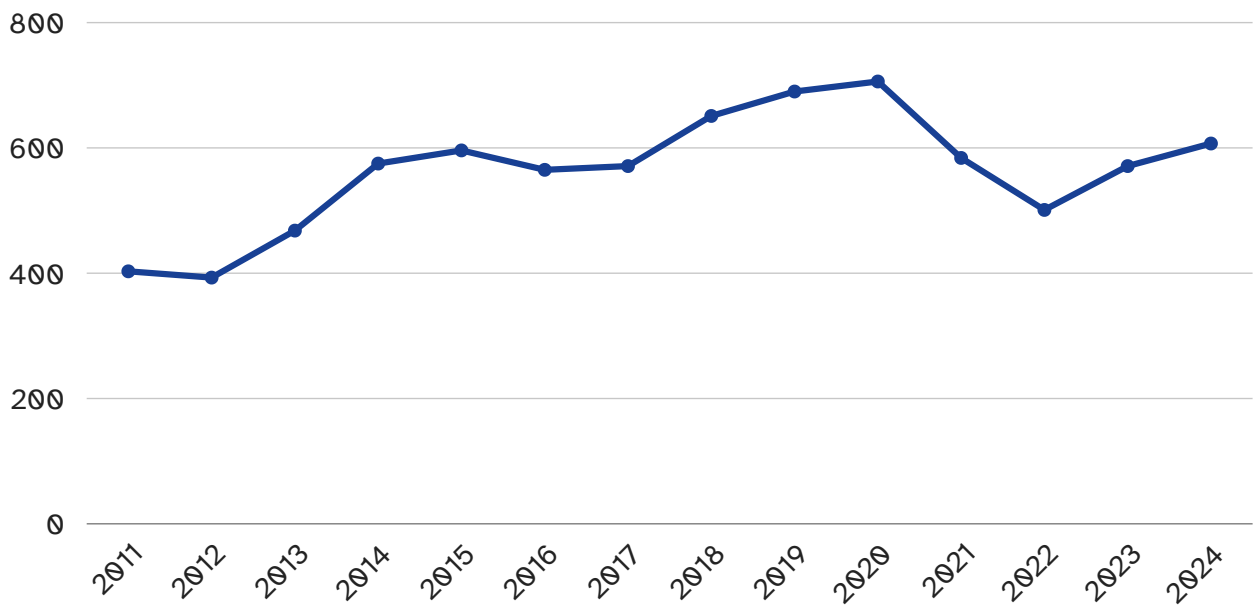
Down from 51 days in 2023



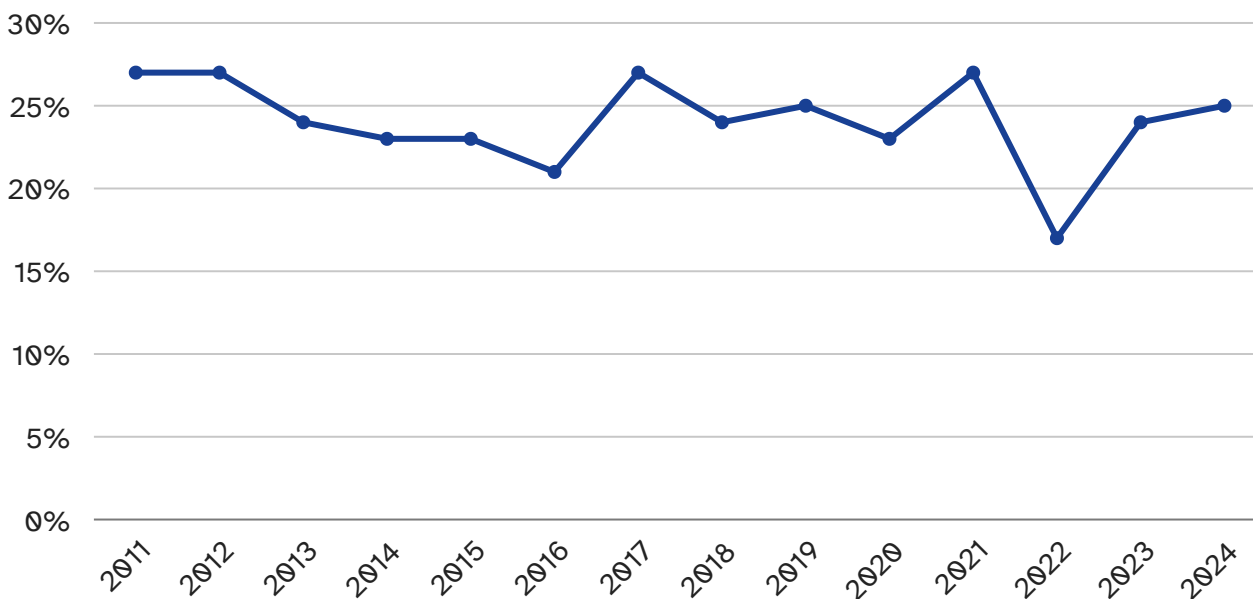
SUBMISSIONS



Number of submissions per year

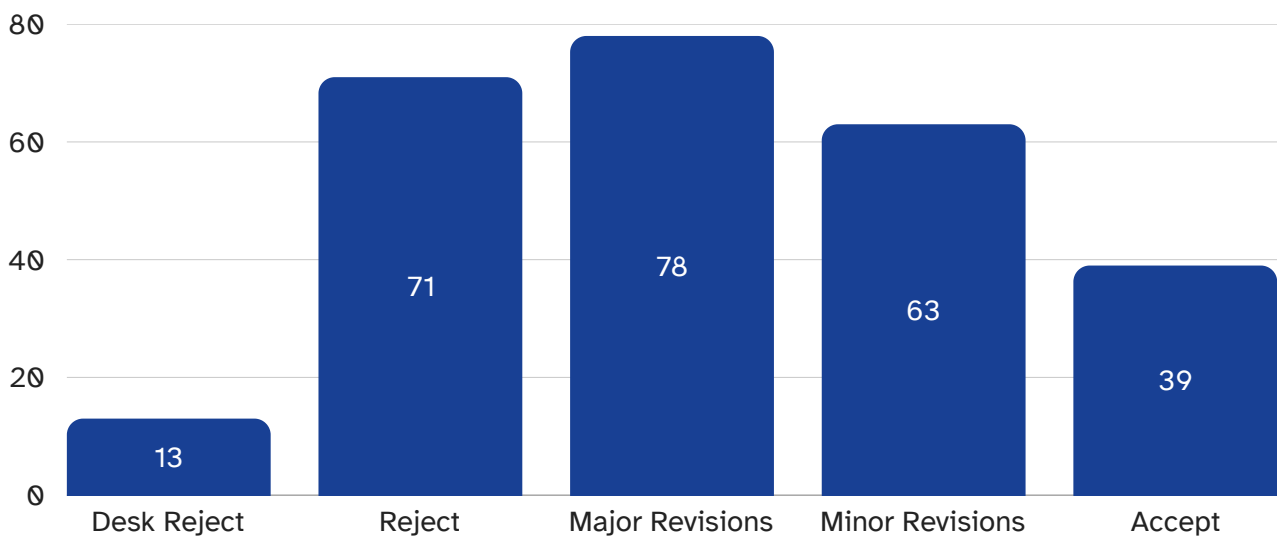


Resubmissions as % of overall submissions

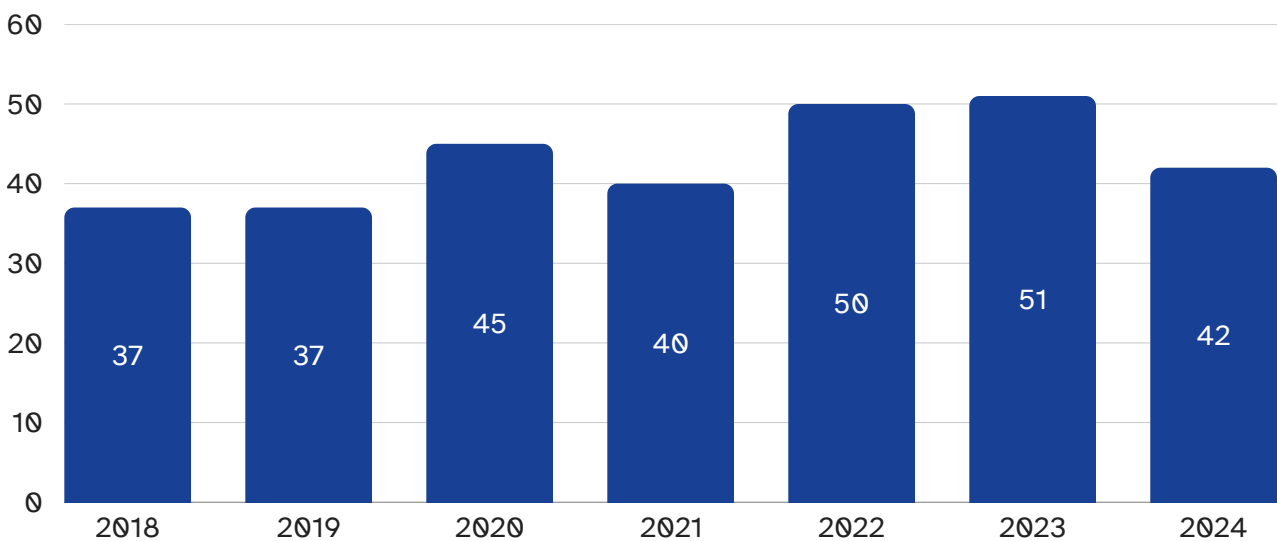




Days to specific decisions 2024



Average days to decision per year



THE LIFECYCLE OF AN AVERAGE BJPS PAPER



Paper submitted



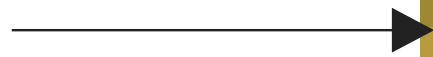
13 days later ...

Desk rejected OR
Assigned to an associate editor (AE) and first referee invitations issued



50 days later...

All referee reports received and AE recommendation given



9 days later...

Final decision



REFEREES



1471

Invitations issued

935

Individuals invited to referee

598

Invitations accepted

443

Individuals agreed to referee

50

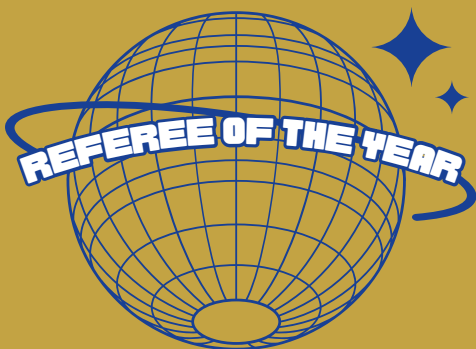
Average days to from first referee invitation to receipt of both referee reports

6

Average number of referee invitations per paper

32 days

Average time for referees to return a report



For her many careful, constructive reports,

EMILY ADLAM

was chosen by the BJPS Editors as the Referee of 2024

Honorable Mention

CASPAR JACOBS

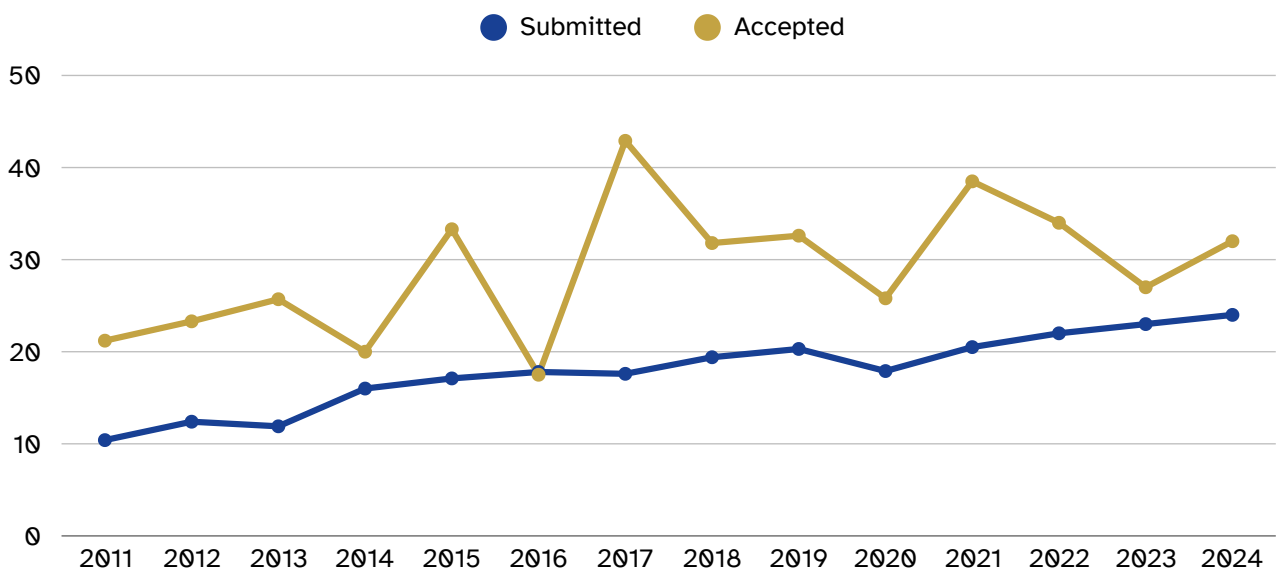
AUTHORS



CO-AUTHORSHIP



Percentage of papers with two or more authors



Number of co-authors (submitted papers)



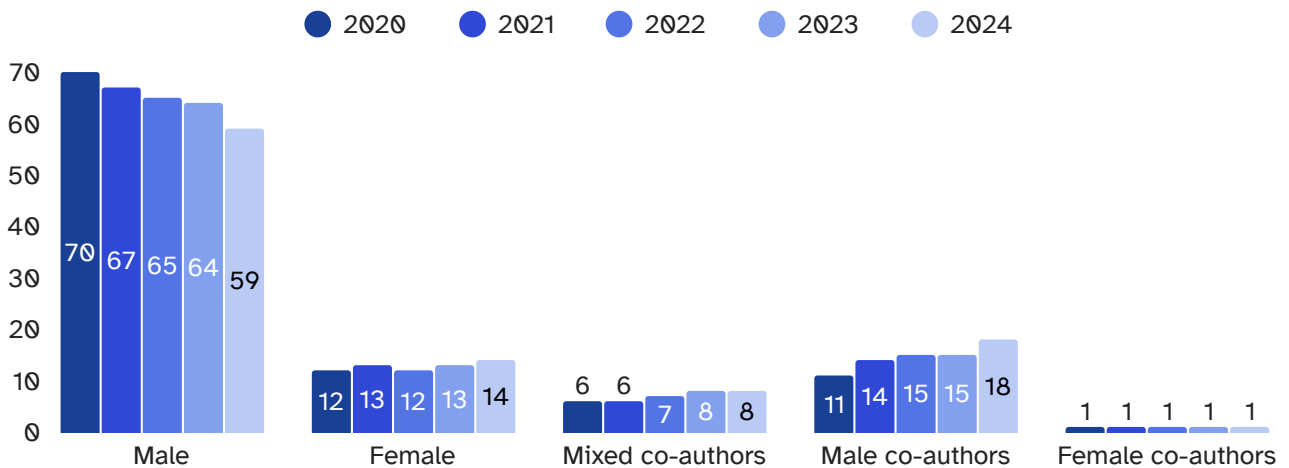
Notes

- Year-on-year increase in co-authorship
- Numbers of accepted papers small, so more prone to noise
- Co-authored papers continue to have greater chance of publication

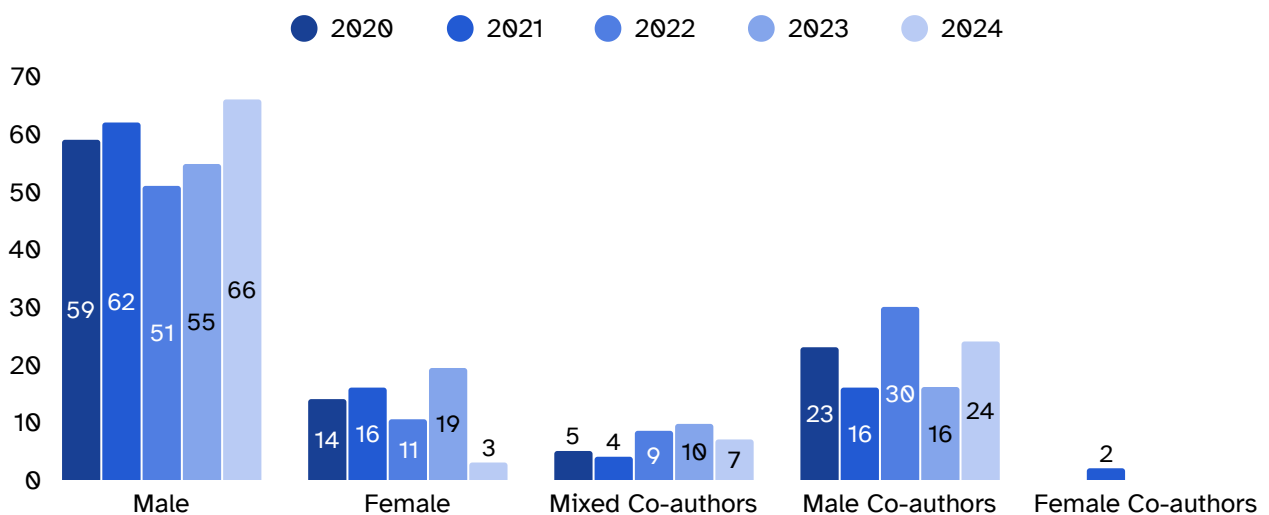
DEMOGRAPHICS: SEX



Submitted papers (%)



Published papers (%)



Notes

Percentage of female authors submitting remains broadly stable

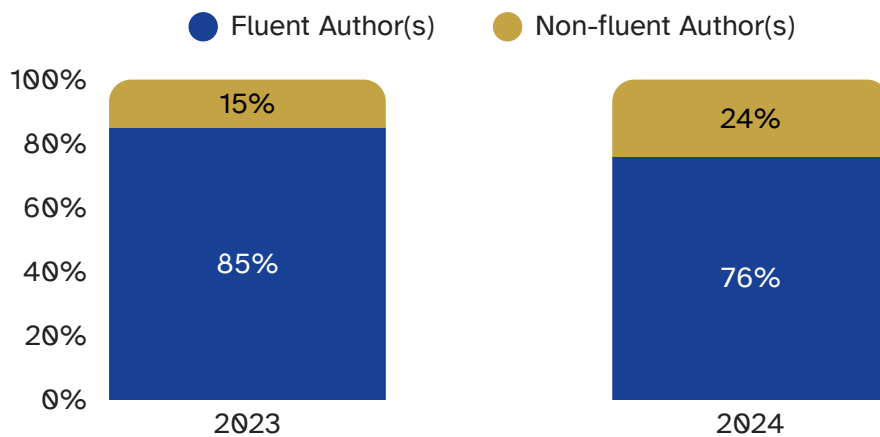
Biggest changes are in percentage of male single-authored papers and all-male co-authored papers

Increase in submissions of co-authored papers mostly reflected in increase in all-male co-author teams

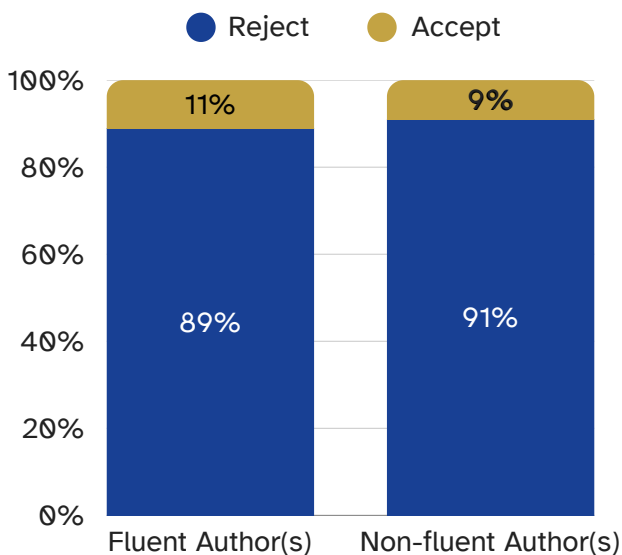
DEMOGRAPHICS: LANGUAGE



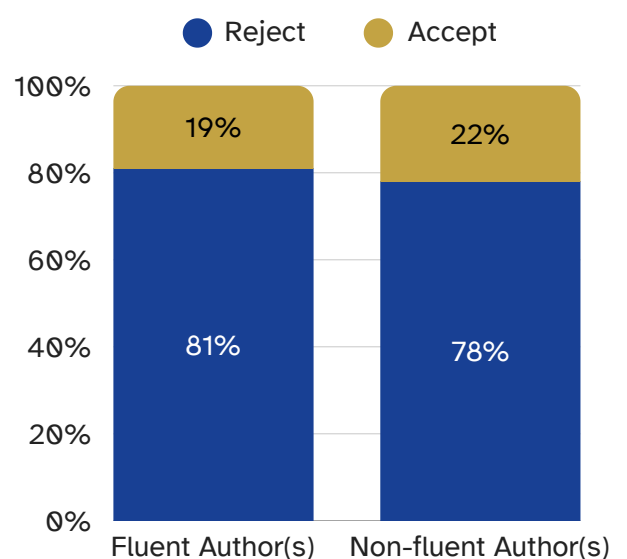
Submitted papers



Fluency by decision



Excluding desk rejects



Notes

Only second year of data collection so too early to see trends

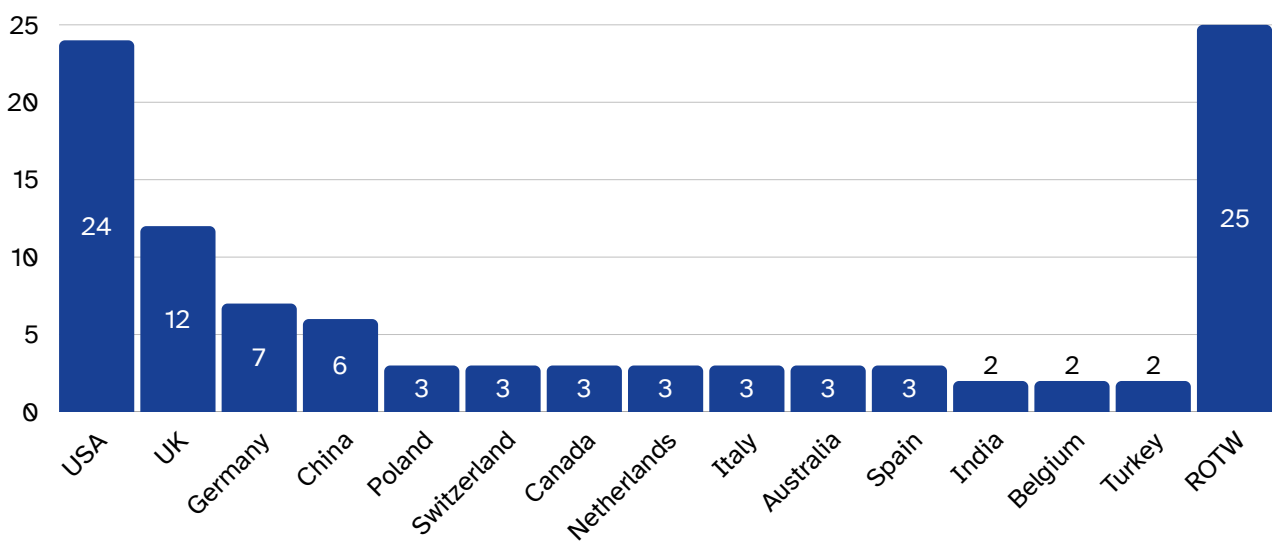
Controlling for desk rejects offers a clearer picture of the situation, since a large number of desk rejects are from non-fluent speakers targeting an entirely inappropriate journal

Non-fluent speakers have a better chance of being published once desk rejects are excluded

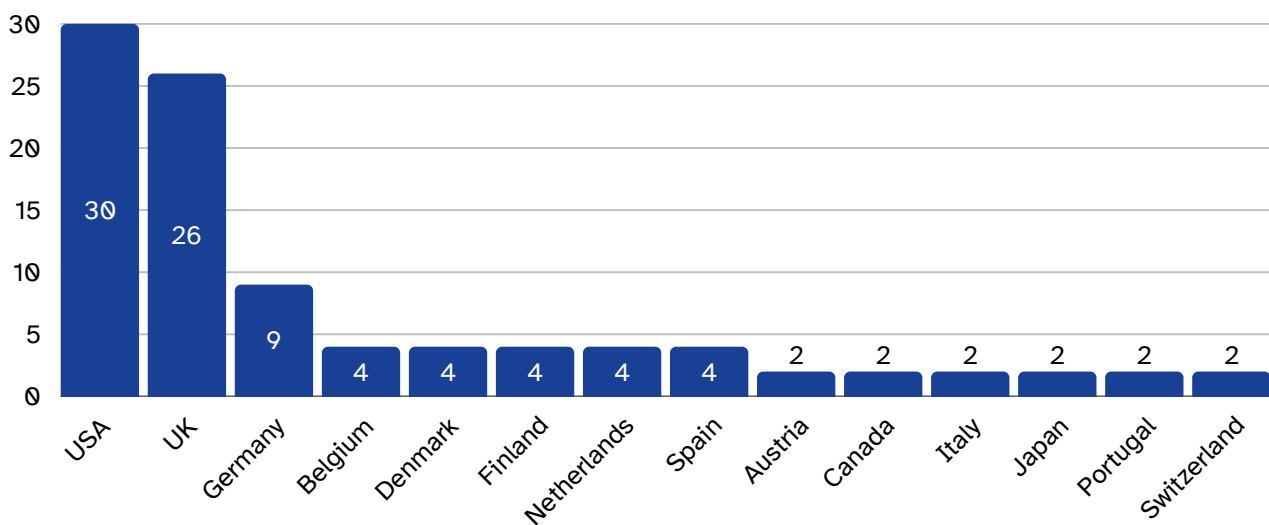
DEMOGRAPHICS: GEOGRAPHY



Submitted papers (%)
Country of corresponding author



Accepted papers (%)
Country of corresponding author



READERS



WHAT'S BEING READ



Most accessed papers in 2024

| AUTHOR(S) | TITLE |
|--|---|
| C Werndl | On Defining Climate and Climate Change (2009) |
| L K Bright & R Heesen | Is Peer Review a Good Idea? (2021) |
| L N Ross | Causal Concepts in Biology: How Pathways Differ from Mechanisms and Why It Matters (2021) |
| T Müller & T Placek | Defining Determinism (2018) |
| M Lemoine, M Khelifaoui, T Pradeu & Y Gingras | Philosophy in Science: Can Philosophers of Science Permeate through Science and Produce Scientific Knowledge? (2024) |
| R Powell & S Clarke | Religion as an Evolutionary Byproduct: A Critique of the Standard Model (2012) |
| A Franklin & V A Seifert | The Problem of Molecular Structure Just Is the Measurement Problem (2024) |
| C Klein, D M Kaplan & J B Ritchie | Decoding the Brain: Neural Representation and the Limits of Multivariate Pattern Analysis in Cognitive Neuroscience (2019) |
| C Santana | Waiting for the Anthropocene (2019) |
| H Helanterä & T Uller | Niche Construction and Conceptual Change in Evolutionary Biology (2019) |

Notes

Of the most accessed papers in 2024, only Werndl's and Klein et al.'s also feature in the top 100 cited BJPS papers

All papers published after 2020 were the subject of various marketing pushes (Short Reads and/or Popper Prize)

WHAT'S BEING READ



Most accessed paywalled papers in 2024

| AUTHOR(S) | TITLE |
|----------------------|--|
| S Aronowitz | Semanticization Challenges the Episodic-Semantic Distinction (forthcoming) |
| C M K Whiteley | Depression as a Disorder of Consciousness (forthcoming) |
| S Okasha | Cancer and the Levels of Selection (2024) |
| C Hanson & C Glymour | Reverse Inference in Neuropsychology (2016) |
| T Wilholt | Epistemic Trust in Science (2013) |
| R Healey | Scientific Objectivity and Its Limits (2024) |
| S A Schroeder | Democratic Values: A Better Foundation for Public Trust in Science (2021) |
| D Thorstad | The Accuracy-Coherence Trade-Off in Cognition (2024) |
| P Carruthers | On Valence: Imperative or Representation of Value? (2023) |
| R Majeed | On Biologizing Racism (2024) |

Notes

Of the most accessed paywalled papers in 2024, only Wilholt's article also features in the top 100 cited BJPS papers

Of the papers published after 2020, the Okasha, Healey, and Thorstad papers received extra marketing pushes (Short Reads/Letters to the Editors)

WHAT'S BEING CITED



Most cited papers (published in 2024)

| AUTHOR(S) | TITLE |
|--|---|
| P Haueis | A Generalized Patchwork Approach to Scientific Concepts |
| T Pradeu, M Lemoine, M Khelifaoui & Y Gingras | Philosophy in Science: Can Philosophers of Science Permeate through Science and Produce Scientific Knowledge? |
| A Franklin & V A Seifert | The Problem of Molecular Structure Just Is the Measurement Problem |
| J Morales | Introspection Is Signal Detection |
| G Irzik & F Kurtulmus | Distributive Epistemic Justice in Science |
| F J Boge | Why Trust a Simulation? Models, Parameters, and Robustness in Simulation-Infected Experiments |
| Y S Wirling & T Gruene-Yanoff | Epistemic and Objective Possibility in Science |
| D Thorstad | The Accuracy-Coherence Trade-Off in Cognition |
| S Okasha | Cancer and the Levels of Selection |
| R Healey | Scientific Objectivity and Its Limits |

Notes

Six of the top ten papers received an extra marketing push:

Haueis (Editors' Choice)

Franklin & Seifert (Short Read, Editors' Choice, Popper Prize)

Boge (Short Read), Thorstad (Short Read)

Okasha (Letters to the Editors)

Healey (Short Read)

WHAT'S BEING CITED



Most cited BJPS papers (published 2014 onwards)

| AUTHOR(S) | TITLE |
|---|--|
| A Lyon | Why Are Normal Distributions Normal? (2014) |
| J Y Halpern & C Hitchcock | Graded Causation and Defaults (2015) |
| M H Slater | Natural Kindness (2015) |
| E Sullivan | Understanding from Machine Learning Models (2022) |
| C F Craver & D M Kaplan | Are More Details Better? On the Norms of Completeness for Mechanistic Explanations (2020) |
| M Baumgartner & A Gebharter | Constitutive Relevance, Mutual Manipulability, and Fat-Handedness (2016) |
| J B Ritchie, D M Kaplan & C Klein | Decoding the Brain: Neural Representation and the Limits of Multivariate Pattern Analysis in Cognitive Neuroscience (2019) |
| S Dasgupta | Symmetry as an Epistemic Notion (Twice Over) (2016) |
| C Pincock | Abstract Explanations in Science (2015) |
| J N Schupbach | Robustness Analysis as Explanatory Reasoning (2018) |

WHAT'S BEING CITED



Most cited BJPS papers (published anytime)

| AUTHOR(S) | TITLE |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| J Y Halpern & J Pearl | Causes and Explanations: A Structural-Model Approach, Part I: Causes (2005) |
| M Forster & E Sober | How to Tell When Simpler, More Unified, or Less <i>ad hoc</i> Theories Will Provide More Accurate Predictions (1994) |
| K R Popper | The Propensity Interpretation of Probability (1959) |
| D L Hull | The Effect of Essentialism on Taxonomy: 2000 Years of Stasis (1965) |
| M Weisberg | Who Is a Modeller? (2007) |
| J Earman & J Norton | What Price Spacetime Substantivalism: The Hole Story (1987) |
| S R Grimm | Is Understanding a Species of Knowledge? (2006) |
| M Mossio, C Saborido & A Moreno | An Organizational Account of Biological Functions (2009) |
| D M Hausman & J Woodward | Independence, Invariance, and the Causal Markov Condition (1999) |
| P E Griffiths | Functional-Analysis and Proper Functions (1993) |

SUMMARY



Free-to-read papers are accessed by readers at approximately ten times the rate of paywalled papers

There is no obvious relationship between being highly read and highly cited

But there is some relationship between being highly read and being subject to a marketing push

And there is some relationship between being highly cited and marketing pushes

The following section of this report deals with gaining the attention of this wider audience

NEW READERS

Philosophy of science isn't just for philosophers of science...

The articles published in the BJPS are required reading for philosophers of science

But few researchers in other disciplines have the time to engage with full-fledged philosophy papers

And many may not even be aware that work in the philosophy of science is relevant to their own research

We have developed a number of different strategies to make it easier for this wider audience to appreciate and engage with the work we publish



NEW READERS



Ways into the philosophy of science

01



Our **BJPS Short Reads** essays and podcast offer an introduction to experts in different fields, and to those in other sub-disciplines of philosophy, that requires only a small investment of their time and effort

02



The **BJPS Review of Books** raises the profile of work in both science and in the philosophy of science, and these reviews are publicised far beyond our philosophy of science audience

03

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITORS

The brand new **Letters to the Editors** series has a number of functions, the most notable in this context is a low-commitment entry point for dialogue between philosophers of science and others



NEW READERS

If you build it, they won't just come...

BJPS social media channels bring researchers beyond the philosophy of science to the work we publish

BJPS mailing lists ensure those that want to can stay up-to date with our book reviews and short reads

Book reviews and short reads are advertised to a wider audience, via other high profile websites (Daily Nous, Rogue Scholar)

The BJPS Short Reads is available via all major podcast platforms and promoted via those platforms' algorithms

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

3.8k

Followers

42%

Of social media referrals to website in 2024



TWITTER

6.3k

Followers

34%

Of social media referrals to website in 2024



BLUESKY

5.3k

Followers

23%

Of social media referrals to website in 2024

Note

Although the BJPS has maintained a Bluesky account since 2023, the platform only took off in October/November 2024, so while Facebook and Twitter numbers have accumulated over 12 months, these figures represent something closer to three months of activity

SOCIAL MEDIA



Total audience size / journals using social media

| JOURNAL |  TWITTER |  FACEBOOK |  BLUESKY | TOTAL |
|--|---|--|---|---------------|
| BJPS | 6300 | 3800 | 5300 | 15,400 |
| Journal of Applied Philosophy | 9800 | - | 1300 | 11,100 |
| Philosophical Psychology | 5200 | 311 | 4700 | 10,211 |
| Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology | 729 | 7400 | 981 | 9110 |
| The HOPOS Journal | 2300 | 3000 | 3600 | 8900 |
| Ethics | - | 5500 | 2600 | 8100 |
| Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy | 802 | 7000 | - | 7802 |
| Isis Journal | 3800 | 1300 | 2200 | 7300 |
| Studies A | - | 6200 | - | 6200 |
| Symphilosophie | 3200 | 1600 | 1300 | 6100 |
| Canadian Journal of Philosophy | 6000 | - | - | 6000 |
| Philosophy of Science | - | - | 5400 | 5400 |
| Philosophers' Imprint | - | 2500 | 1900 | 4400 |
| British Journal of Aesthetics | 1500 | 1600 | 1200 | 4300 |
| Journal for General Philosophy of Science | 859 | - | 3100 | 3959 |
| Precollege Philosophy & Public Practice | - | 3300 | 486 | 3786 |
| The Journal of Philosophy | - | 2400 | 467 | 2867 |
| History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences | 2500 | - | - | 2500 |
| Philosophy in Review | 1700 | - | 468 | 2168 |
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