

## *Editors' Notes*

### ERRATUM

In the December 2011 issue of the *JOURNAL*, in the editors' notes, the dissertation title of this year's Gerschenkron Prize winner, Olivier Accominotti, was printed incorrectly. The correct dissertation title is "Foreign Exchange Reserves, Financial Instability, and Contagion: Three Essays on the Great Depression."

### EDITORS' REPORT SEPTEMBER 2011

The *JOURNAL* operations have run smoothly over the past year. Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and I continue to be fortunate to work with a fine group of people. Sabrina Boschetti at Caltech has been our Production Editor for several years. Brendan Livingston has taken a job as an assistant professor at Rowan University and has stepped down as my assistant at Arizona. Taylor Jaworski, a Ph.D. student at Arizona, has taken over Brendan's position. We have a very strong editorial board. Term limits force us to lose nine excellent members: Martha Bailey, Dan Bogart, John Brown, Mauricio Drelichman, Eric Hilt, Doug Irwin, David Jacks, Ian Keay, Kris Mitchener, and Sevket Pamuk. We add to the Board a superb group of scholars, including Joyce Burnette, Bruce Campbell, Marc Flandreau, Bishnu Gupta, Michael Huberman, Trevon Logan, Joseph Mason, and Alan Olmstead. They will each serve four-year terms. Phil Hoffman and Paul Rhode continue as book review editors. Gillian Greenough has been our liaison with Cambridge for the past year and has made several improvements to the editing and distribution process. Paul Rhode of the University of Michigan will take my place as editor of the western hemisphere articles in the *JOURNAL* in July 2012.

The number of submissions to the *JOURNAL* in Figure 1 fell slightly to 118 but remained well above the recent trough of 98 in 2008/2009. The all-time peak was 158 in 2007/2008. The distribution of topic areas in Table 1 has evened out a great deal over the past few years. A Herfindahl index for topics has fallen from 1,460 in 2006/2007 to below 1000 for the past two years. The share of political economy articles fell from around 25 percent to 5 percent in 2008/2009 but recovered some to above 12 percent after Phil Hoffman's clarion call for more political economy in his editorial report two years ago. After two years with a 20 percent share, the share of labor papers has fallen sharply to only 8 percent this past year, while the share of papers in demography has risen from 2 to 8 percent. The share of papers on economic growth had bounced around 10 percent for several years and then rose sharply this past year to 15 percent.

The coverage of regions in Table 2 has evened out some at the expense of the United States and Canada. After several years with a 40 percent share of papers, the share on the United States and Canada has fallen to 28 percent, and a significant number of those papers make comparisons between North America and other parts of the world. The share of papers on Africa has fallen back slightly from a peak of nearly 5 percent in 2009/2010. The Asian share of topics has traced out a J-shape from a peak at nearly 10 percent in 2007/2008 to a trough of 4 percent in 2009/2010 and upward to 7 percent last year. Great Britain's share continues to surge to 18 percent.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries continue to account for about two-thirds of the papers in Table 3. As coverage shifts further back in time, the share of papers falls off. There is one caveat about all of these statistics. The editors classified the papers up through 2007/2008, and the classifications have been chosen by the submitting authors since that time.

To put the response-time statistics in Table 4 in context, here are some insights as to how we have been operating the *JOURNAL* through Manuscript Central. When the paper is submitted, we check for membership in the Economic History Association or the

payment of the journal submission fee for nonmembers. A lapsed membership or nonpayment of the submission fee will slow the process because we can do nothing with the paper until the fees are paid. We also do our best to check that there is no information in the submitted files that identify the author. Sometimes the information is hidden. The Word software (under Prepare then Properties) often has information on the owner of the software that needs to be cleansed. Once the fees are paid and the paper cleansed of author information, we try our best to contact referees within a week, and we give them a deadline of eight weeks. We send reminder emails a week before the report is due, the day it is due, and then after it is due. We also try to contact people directly if these don't work. Our goal is to have a decision back to the author within 90 days. Table 5 shows that our average and medians for the past several years have ranged between 70 and 90 days. We have tried to shorten the time frame for articles that we expect to be rejected. We tend to take more editorial time on papers in the revise and resubmit stage because they are more likely to be accepted. This is one reason why the statistics for all articles are roughly the same as for new submissions even though we shoot for a six-week turnaround time with referees on resubmissions. Compared with other fields in economics, the JOURNAL's turnaround time is very fast. Economic history journals in general have been good about this and we have a friendly competition going with other economic history journal editors to try to maintain these turnaround times.

The publication rate in Figure 2 is the number of refereed papers and notes published in the current year divided by the number of new papers submitted in the previous year. The publication rate peaked at 45 percent in 2000 and fell to a low around 20 percent in 2009. After rising to nearly 35 percent in 2010, it has fallen back to around 25 percent. The number of refereed articles and notes published does not change much from year to year, so the publication rate typically fluctuates in the opposite direction of the number of new submissions. As a result, the low publication rate in 2009 in Figure 2 is associated with the spike in the number of new submissions in 2008 in Figure 1, and the rise in the 2010 publication rate resulted from the sharp drop-off in submissions in 2009.

PRICE V. FISHBACK, *University of Arizona, Tucson*

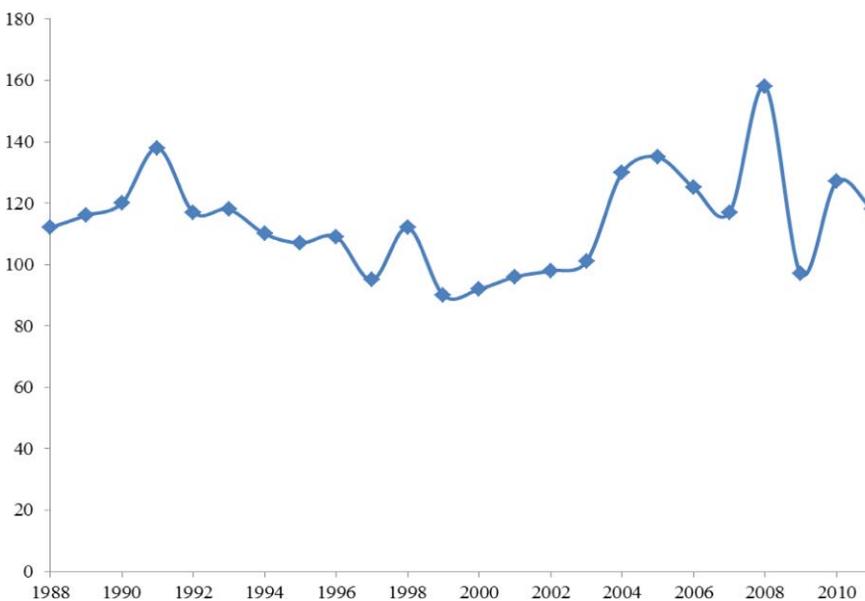


FIGURE 1  
NEW SUBMISSIONS IN YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1988–2011

TABLE 1  
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,  
JULY 2008–JUNE 2011

| Topic                                  | July 2008–June 2009   |                   | July 2009–June 2010   |                   | July 2010–June 2011   |                   |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|  | North & South America | Rest of the World | North & South America | Rest of the World | North & South America | Rest of the World |
| Agriculture                            | 3                     | 2                 | 5                     | 5                 | 3                     | 5                 |
| Demography                             | 4                     | 2                 | 1                     | 9                 | 3                     | 7                 |
| Growth                                 | 4                     | 8                 | 3                     | 10                | 7                     | 11                |
| History of thought                     | 0                     | 0                 | 0                     | 0                 | 1                     | 0                 |
| Industry                               | 3                     | 2                 | 2                     | 3                 | 2                     | 1                 |
| International trade/<br>finance        | 6                     | 4                 | 4                     | 6                 | 5                     | 4                 |
| Labor                                  | 10                    | 11                | 10                    | 8                 | 7                     | 2                 |
| Money and macro                        | 5                     | 3                 | 5                     | 5                 | 1                     | 3                 |
| Political economy                      | 0                     | 5                 | 5                     | 13                | 7                     | 8                 |
| Private finance and<br>capital markets | 7                     | 1                 | 6                     | 5                 | 4                     | 12                |
| Public finance                         | 2                     | 1                 | 1                     | 6                 | 4                     | 1                 |
| Technology                             | 2                     | 3                 | 2                     | 5                 | 4                     | 2                 |
| Urban and regional                     | 2                     | 1                 | 3                     | 1                 | 1                     | 2                 |
| Other                                  | 3                     | 3                 | 3                     | 1                 | 4                     | 7                 |
| Total                                  | 51                    | 46                | 50                    | 77                | 53                    | 65                |

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. Until March of 2008, the North American Editorial Office was responsible for articles on the United States and Canada; thereafter, it took charge of submissions on Latin America too. In 2008, the Americas office had 67 total submissions, 51 new and 16 resubmitted. The office for the rest of the world had 64 total submissions, 46 new and 18 resubmitted.

TABLE 2  
REGULAR ARTICLE NEW SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY–30 JUNE

| Region                         | Submissions |           |           |           |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                | 2007–2008   | 2008–2009 | 2009–2010 | 2010–2011 |
| Africa                         | 1           | 4         | 8         | 5         |
| Asia                           | 17          | 5         | 7         | 11        |
| Australia and New Zealand      | 2           | 0         | 2         | 0         |
| Eastern Europe/Russia          | 7           | 2         | 7         | 7         |
| Great Britain                  | 12          | 8         | 22        | 27        |
| Latin America                  | 9           | 8         | 7         | 6         |
| Middle East                    | 6           | 3         | 6         | 6         |
| Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean | 0           | 1         | 3         | 0         |
| United States and Canada       | 72          | 38        | 51        | 43        |
| Western Europe                 | 43          | 26        | 46        | 41        |
| Not applicable                 | 9           | 2         | 3         | 4         |

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed new submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE  
2008–2009, 2009–2010, AND 2010–2011

| Period                               | Submissions |           |           |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                      | 2008–2009   | 2009–2010 | 2010–2011 |
| Twenty-first century                 | 1           | 4         | 2         |
| Twentieth century                    | 30          | 74        | 53        |
| Nineteenth century                   | 38          | 63        | 53        |
| Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries | 15          | 39        | 33        |
| Pre-seventeenth century              | 11          | 15        | 15        |
| Not applicable or unknown            | 2           | 3         | 3         |

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4  
TIME BETWEEN SUBMISSION AND EDITOR'S DECISION  
(in days)

| Year                 | Decision Lags (in days) |         |      |        |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|--------|
|                      | Minimum                 | Maximum | Mean | Median |
| All submissions      |                         |         |      |        |
| 2004/2005            | 1                       | 366     | 112  | 104    |
| 2005/2006            | 1                       | 338     | 97   | 92     |
| 2006/2007            | 1                       | 215     | 88   | 92     |
| 2007/2008            | 1                       | 216     | 72   | 81     |
| 2008/2009            | 30                      | 193     | 88   | 92     |
| 2009/2010            | 13                      | 162     | 91   | 90     |
| 2010/2011            | 14                      | 179     | 90   | 90     |
| New submissions only |                         |         |      |        |
| 2004/2005            | 1                       | 260     | 100  | 90     |
| 2005/2006            | 1                       | 338     | 94   | 90     |
| 2006/2007            | 1                       | 215     | 89   | 111    |
| 2007/2008            | 1                       | 216     | 72   | 80     |
| 2008/2009            | 31                      | 176     | 87   | 91     |
| 2009/2010            | 20                      | 162     | 94   | 91     |
| 2010/2011            | 14                      | 179     | 93   | 92     |

*Notes:* Does not include submissions that were pending as of August 19, 2011.

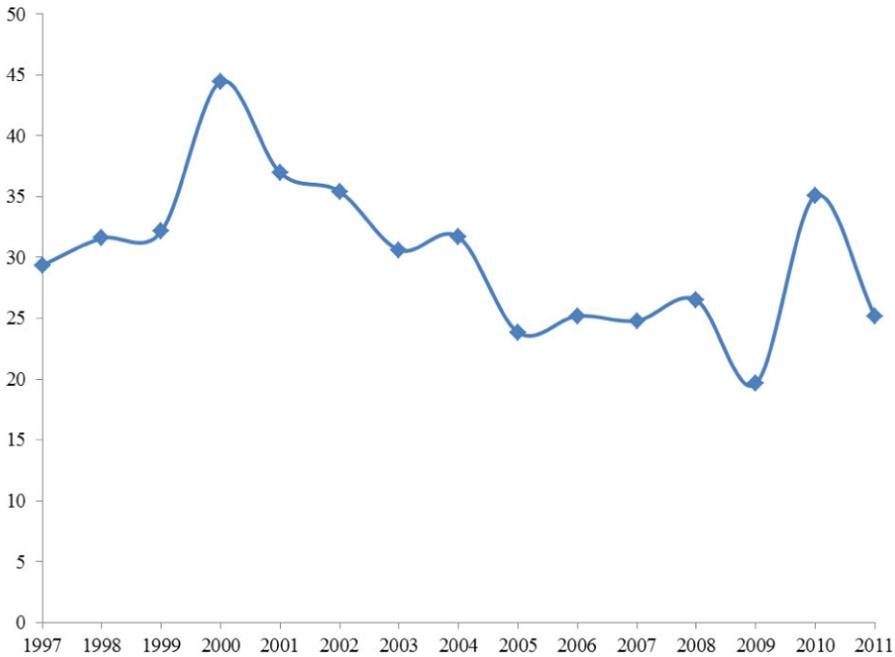


FIGURE 2  
PUBLICATION RATE, 1997–2011

*Notes:* Publication Rate for 2010 is the refereed number of articles and notes published between July 1 and June 30 of 2010 as a percentage of the number of new submissions between July 1 and June 30 of 2009, and similarly for prior years. Presidential addresses and book reviews are not included. In years prior to 1997, the June issue of the *JOURNAL* was devoted to publishing papers presented at the annual Economic History Association meetings, so the meaning of publication rates differed.

Referees for the year were:

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Ran Abramitzky      | Martha Bailey        |
| Olivier Accominotti | Daniel Benjamin      |
| Brian A'Hearn       | James Bessen         |
| Robert Allen        | Howard Bodenhorn     |
| Sam Allen           | Dan Bogart           |
| Douglas Almond      | Maristella Botticini |
| Lee J. Alston       | Leah Boustan         |
| George Alter        | Fabio Braggion       |
| Terry Anderson      | Elizabeth Brainerd   |
| Manuela Angelucci   | Loren Brandt         |
| Leticia Arroyo Abad | Richard Britnell     |
| Jeremy Atack        | Stephen Broadberry   |
| Anthony B. Atkinson | Carsten Burhop       |
| Gareth Austin       | Joyce Burnette       |

Charles Calomiris  
Bruce Campbell  
Cameron Campbell  
Forrest Capie  
Albert Carreras  
Linda Carter  
Marco Casari  
Benjamin Chabot  
Eric Chaney  
Latika Chaudhary  
Gregory Clark  
Karen Clay  
Philip Coelho  
Raymond L. Cohn  
William J. Collins  
Metin M. Cosgel  
Nicholas Crafts  
Lee A. Craig  
Francois Crouzet  
Guillaume Daudin  
Donald Davis  
Joseph Davis  
Marc Deloof  
Tracy K. Dennison  
John Devereux  
Jan De Vries  
Mark Dincecco  
Jeremiah Dittmar  
Mauricio Drelichman  
Alan Dye  
Jari Eloranta  
Rebecca Emigh  
Stanley Engerman  
Rui Esteves  
Stefano Fenoaltea  
James Fenske  
Joseph Ferrie  
Alexander Field  
Ronald Findlay  
Price Fishback  
Marc Flandreau  
Robert Fleck  
Robin Fleming  
Juan Flores  
Roderick Floud  
Robert W. Fogel  
Caroline Fohlin  
Jonathan Fox  
Carola Frydman  
Jeffrey Furman  
Francesco Galassi  
David Galenson  
Christina Gathmann  
Oscar Gelderblom  
Sun Go  
Claudia Goldin  
Jack Goldstone  
Gary Gorton  
Regina Grafe  
George W. Grantham  
Timothy Gregory  
Avner Greif  
Ola Grytten  
Guido Guerzoni  
Timothy Guinnane  
Bishnupriya Gupta  
Sonam Gupta  
Theresa Gutberlet  
Stephen Haber  
Steven J. Haider  
Gillian Hamilton  
Mary Hansen  
C. Knick Harley  
Ron Harris  
Mark Harrison  
John Hatcher  
Aviad Heifetz  
R. Max Henderson  
Jessica Hennessey  
Barry Higman  
Eric Hilt  
Philip Hoffman

Paul M. Hohenberg  
Adrienne Hood  
Sara Horrell  
Michael Huberman  
Elise Huillery  
Jane Humphries  
Joseph Inikori  
Douglas Irwin  
Lakshmi Iyer  
David Jacks  
John James  
Matthew Jaremski  
Taylor Jaworski  
Robert Jensen  
Saumitra Jha  
Clemens Jobst  
Noel Johnson  
Paul Johnson  
Ryan Johnson  
Joost Jonker  
Matt Kahn  
Shawn Kantor  
Ian Keay  
Lane Kenworthy  
Lionel Kesztenbaum  
Sukkoo Kim  
Christopher Kingston  
Carl Kitchens  
Peter Klenow  
Gerrit Knaap  
Morgan Kousser  
Randy Kroszner  
Timur Kuran  
Sumner La Croix  
Pedro Lains  
Naomi Lamoreaux  
Markus Lampe  
Tim Leunig  
Frank Lewis  
Bozhong Li  
Gary Libecap  
Peter Lindert

Trevon Logan  
Jason Long  
Debin Ma  
Thomas Maloney  
Robert Margo  
Martine Mariotti  
Andrei Markevich  
Joseph R. Mason  
Noel Maurer  
Nicholas Mayhew  
Robert McGuire  
Richard McKenzie  
Ian W. McLean  
Christopher Meissner  
Victor Menaldo  
Jacob Metzger  
Mark Metzler  
Chris Minns  
David Mitch  
Kris Mitchener  
Carolyn Moehling  
Joel Mokyr  
Philippe Mongin  
Alexander Moradi  
Kenneth Morgan  
Jose Morilla-Critz  
Petra Moser  
Bernardo Mueller  
Sharon Murphy  
John Murray  
Aldo Musacchio  
Steven Nafziger  
Suresh Naidu  
Larry Neal  
Todd Neumann  
Tom Nicholas  
Pilar Nogues-Marco  
Nathan Nunn  
John Nye  
Wallace Oates  
Patrick O'Brien  
Sheilagh Ogilvie

Cormac Ó Grada  
Lee Ohanian  
Philip Ollerenshaw  
Alan L. Olmstead  
Martha L. Olney  
David Ormrod  
Kevin O'Rourke  
Suleyman Ozmucur  
Sevket Pamuk  
John Parman  
Rodrigo Parral Duran  
Daniele Paserman  
Dwight H. Perkins  
Kenneth Pomeranz  
Leandro Prados de la Escosura  
Stephen Quinn  
Paul Rhode  
Gary Richardson  
Richard Roberts  
James Robinson  
Hugh Rockoff  
Nathan Rosenberg  
Joshua Rosenbloom  
Joan Ramon Rosés  
Elyce J. Rotella  
Peter Rousseau  
Richard Salvucci  
Dov Samet  
Catherine Schenk  
James Schmitz  
Andrew Seltzer  
Jerome Sgard  
Carole Shammas  
Carol Shiue  
Richard Sicotte  
Curtis Simon  
James Simpson  
Philip Slavin  
Richard Smith  
Tuanhwee Sng  
Todd Sorensen  
David Stasavage  
Richard Steckel  
Jochen Streb  
Roman Studer  
John Styles  
William Summerhill  
William A. Sundstrom  
Nathan Sussman  
Richard Sutch  
Richard Sylla  
John Tang  
Jason Taylor  
Peter Temin  
Melissa Thomasson  
Ross Thomson  
John Treble  
Francesca Trivellato  
Werner Troesken  
Michael Turner  
Nuno Valério  
Milja Van Tielhof  
Francois Velde  
David Vines  
Nancy Virts  
Oliver Volckart  
Hans-Joachim Voth  
Kenneth Wachter  
Daniel Waldenstrom  
James Walker  
John Wallis  
Marianne Wanamaker  
Kirsten Wandschneider  
Marianne Ward  
Warren Weber  
Marc Weidenmier  
Barry R. Weingast  
David Weir  
Jacob Weisdorf  
Thomas Weiss  
Robert Whaples  
Warren Whatley  
Eugene White  
Dean Williamson

Jeffrey G. Williamson

Paul Wilson

R. Bin Wong

John Wood

Robert Wright

Noam Yuchtman

Richard Zeckhauser

Peter Zeitz