

Editors' note

Luís F. Costa^{1,2}, and Steffen Hoernig³

1 PEJ update

As we write this note in early December, the Portuguese Economic Journal (PEJ) is probably heading for a new all-time record in the number of submissions. There was a 3 per cent increase to 210 submissions in the period from December 2018 to November 2019 compared with the previous 12 months. The average turnaround time to first decision has stabilised at 27 days and the rejection rate of new submissions has remained slightly below 90 per cent. The (two-year) impact factor improved for the third consecutive year and reached 0.5 in 2018 (released in June 2019). The number of articles available online first in November 2019 is larger than the number of articles published in that year.

Paulo Guimarães is leaving the executive board (ExB) in January 2020 and will be replaced by Miguel Portela. However, he will resume his position as associate editor. We are deeply grateful to Paulo for his dedication during this five-year period and also for holding the title of the first person to publish an article in PEJ. We also wish all the best to Miguel in his new position as co-editor, after a short spell as an associate editor.

Furthermore, Martina Bihn also ceased to be our publishing editor in April 2019 and was replaced by Samuel Beattie. Martina is a very important person in the history of PEJ and she played the role of a true founding mother. Her involvement with the journal goes back at least to 2000, when she helped designing the project with Paulo Brito and João Santos Silva at the World Congress of the Econometric Society in Seattle. She was also extremely important during the *annus horribilis* of 2015 and helped preventing the death of the journal at the time. The entire editorial board of PEJ and the larger community associated with the project are greatly indebted to Martina for her professional support, but also for believing enthusiastically in the project from the start. Furthermore, we wish her all the best for her new position as Editorial Director for Business, Economics, and Statistics at Springer. We welcome Sam as our new journal development editor.

The Annual Meeting of PEJ returned to Évora in July 2019 for the 13rd edition. Évora is a mythical place for us, as the idea of the journal was conceived there in June 1999 at the 4th SPiE conference. The local organising committee was composed by Carlos Vieira (chair), Luís Coelho, Andreia Dionísio, Soumodip Sarkar, and Isabel Vieira. Nuno Limão was the chair of the scientific committee, and Paul de Grauwe and Michael Kremer were the keynote speakers. ConsultAccount sponsored the first award for the best paper presented by a PhD student at the conference, which was conferred to Ana Oliveira (U. Porto). The ExB of PEJ is extremely grateful to all the above-mentioned people for a job well done. A special thanks to Pedro Brinca for making the award a reality.

¹ ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management, *Universidade de Lisboa*, Rua do Quelhas 6, 1200-781 Lisboa, Portugal.

² UECE - Research Unit on Complexity and Economics, REM - Research in Economics and Mathematics, ISEG, Rua Miguel Lupi 20, 1249-078 Lisboa, Portugal.

³ Nova School of Business & Economics, Campus de Carcavelos, Rua da Holanda 1, 2775-405 Carcavelos, Portugal

The 14th Annual Meeting will go back to Porto, but this time it will be hosted by the Católica-Porto Business School from 3 to 5 July 2020. The local organising committee is composed of Ricardo Gonçalves (chair), Mariana Alves Cunha, and Francisca Oliveira. Joana Silva will lead the scientific committee, and the keynote speakers will be Ana Rute Cardoso and Beata Javorcik. The submission deadline is 15 March and we are grateful once more to ConsultAccount for sponsoring the award for the best paper presented by a PhD student.

Finally, we would like to welcome Olaf Ghanizadeh to the position of Marketing & Communication Director, which he duly started in April 2019. You can see some of Olaf's work in our [YouTube channel](#).

2 Special topic: areas in Economics

PEJ is a general-interest journal, publishing high-quality articles in all areas of economics. In this editors' note we want to take stock of the areas that have been covered since the Journal's inception in 2002, based on Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) codes, and taking into account that many articles have multiple associated JEL codes.

We are happy to report that articles in almost all code areas have appeared in PEJ. The areas most strongly represented since 2002 are C - Mathematical and Quantitative Methods (15%), E - Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics (13%), G - Financial Economics and F - International Economics (9%), D - Microeconomics (9%), followed by O - Economic Development, Technological Change and Growth (9%), and J - Labor and Demographic Economics (8%). Yearly percentages vary strongly, and no clear tendency is discernible.

The ratio of the share of submissions in specific areas to published articles offers some clue about the relative quality of submissions. This ratio is lowest, indicating highest average quality, for K - Law and Economics, D - Microeconomics, and C - Mathematical and Quantitative Methods, while it is highest for M - Business Economics, P - Economic Systems, and somewhat better for P - Economic Systems and R - Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics.

We continue to consider high-quality work from all areas of economics, but would like to invite authors to submit more work in hitherto underrepresented areas such: H - Public Economics, I - Health, Education and Welfare, K - Law and Economics, L - Industrial Economics, N - Economic History, Q - Agricultural and Resource Economics, and R - Urban, Rural and Resource Economics.

3 The 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

The ExB of PEJ congratulates Michael Kremer for being awarded the Nobel prize in Economics jointly with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo for "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." As mentioned above, we had the honour of having Michael Kremer as one of the keynote speakers at our conference in Évora.