

Table 1: Positions of scholars submitting papers to *Asia Pacific World*

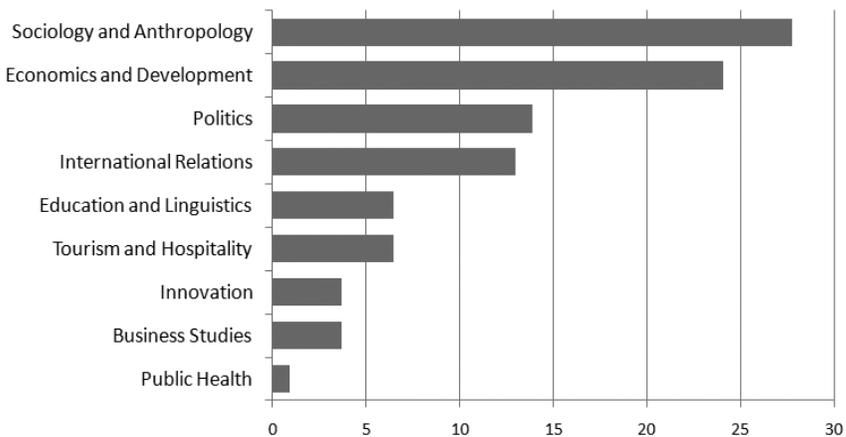
Academic Position	%
Professors	54
PhD students	27
Masters students	18
Undergraduate students	1

Note: Data sourced for period November 2009–June 2011

In the four issues of *Asia Pacific World* that have been published so far, disciplines with the highest number of contributions were Sociology and Anthropology, Economics and Development, Politics, and International Relations (see Figure 2). Published contributions have not only come from submitted manuscripts, but also from special contributions such as the Keynote Address at the APEC Economic Committee Roundtable in Beppu, Japan, by Dr. Peter Drysdale. Each issue of the journal has also included reviews of selected books that explore crucial issues relating to the Asia Pacific region. A significant proportion of books reviewed in the past issues focused on the Pacific region. Scholars who are interested in writing book reviews should contact the editor for more details.¹

International conferences held at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) have played a significant role by contributing 34 percent of submitted manuscripts. The particular conferences in reference are: the Sustainability and Development Conference (2011), the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies (IAAPS) Conference (2010), the 9th Asia Pacific Tourism Forum (2010), and the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific

Figure 2: Fields of Published Contributions (%)



Note: Data sourced from *Asia Pacific World* Vol. 1 (Issues 1 and 2), and Vol. 2 (Issues 1 and 2)

Conference (2008). Such support is vital to the success of the journal and should not be underestimated. Conference organizers, not limited to APU conferences, who wish for their conference papers to be considered for publication, may contact the editor for more details.

It is important to point out that *Asia Pacific World* is a peer-reviewed journal involving at least 2 independent reviewers per manuscript. The review process is rigorous, not just in the initial review, but also in subsequent stages of the review. Asia Pacific Studies encompass a wide range of disciplines, and the editorial team endeavors to find peer reviewers with relevant experience and expertise in the respective field of each manuscript. Our past reviewers have come from various universities and institutions around the globe, and an acknowledgement list showing a selection of our reviewers for the period 2010–2011 is included in this issue. Finding experts for the review of manuscripts has always been a challenge for peer-reviewed journals, and reviewers take time out of their busy schedules to assess manuscripts and write detailed reports. Therefore our sincere thanks are due to our reviewers for their generosity of expertise and dedication in helping us in the peer review process.

In the time period covered by this report, the review time of manuscripts has been on average 3 months. We define review time as the number of days between when a manuscript is received and when the editor sends out the reviewers' reports to authors. This is often an important factor influencing scholars' decision about where to publish, therefore the journal aims to keep review time within this limited range. Of course it is inevitable that some manuscripts may take longer to review due to various factors such as the availability of reviewers for the specific field, or the lengthier time required for more technical manuscripts. Hence this review time should be understood as an average, not a guarantee. Overall, acceptance and rejection rates have been 22 percent and 78 percent respectively. Although *Asia Pacific World's* rejection rate is high, all authors whether successful or otherwise, receive constructive feedback from reviewers. We encourage both young researchers and experienced scholars to take advantage of this feedback opportunity.

Our first article in this issue is the transcript of a speech to Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University on the occasion of the launching of the International Association for Asia-Pacific Studies, this Journal's parent body. Dr. Kent Calder of Johns Hopkins University spoke on the Implications for Asia-Pacific Ties: American Asia Policy—Past Progress and Future Prospects, and presented a perspective as an American who has worked in the policy process on how American-Asia policy has evolved, in particular, how the environment in which the US-Japan relationship finds itself changed over those years. This is followed by Professor Sakamoto, former President of APU, who presents his view of the meaning of the 'Asia Pacific Age.' In this article, presented at the same occasion, Prof. Sakamoto makes several important points: first, it has been said that the 21st century is the 'Asia Pacific Age,' but this Asia Pacific Age will not merely be a passing trend. In essence, this age has the potential to set the stage for a new civilization in human history. Secondly, to promote this, the new discipline of Asia Pacific Studies must, above all else, be a future-oriented discipline that deals with the Asia Pacific Region in the twenty-first century.

Thirdly, it is necessary for us to develop this discipline in a purpose-driven manner to ensure that the Asia Pacific Civilization is well received in human history.

As our first general article in this issue we have an interesting and topical look at manga by Nagaike and Yoshida: “Becoming and Performing the Self and the Other: Fetishism, Fantasy and Sexuality of Cosplay in Japanese Girls’/Women’s Manga.” In this article, the authors analyze a variety of cosplay depicted in manga mainly written by and for women, and attempt to discover the kinds of gender referentiality which are involved in these fictional cosplay representations. Next, Webster, Chan and Lee discuss the introduction of an online language learning environment and its corpus of tertiary student writing in the Hong Kong university environment. In this article, they present a web-based e-learning environment, which provides subject teachers and language tutors with a platform of collaboration to improve students’ English writing ability by providing human feedback on the language of those assignments assigned by their subject teacher.

This is followed by Steven Rothman’s article explaining the Japanese decision for war against Russia in 1904 by applying theories of war involving the democratic process, the domestic and government interests, and prospect theory. The article demonstrates the limits of psychological variables to analyze or explain international decisions due to the political complexity and domestic and global context of decision-making. The results suggest that careful use of prospect theory and the addition of factors other than psychological ones should be applied to questions of international politics.

We now turn to the fourth article by Agrusa et al on the “Destination Image of Tahiti as Perceived by International Tourists,” in which the authors examine the perceptions of international tourists about Tahiti as a desirable destination. The results demonstrate that the majority of international visitors surveyed have a similar perception of Tahiti. Some of the common images are that of an exotic destination, of beaches, and of bungalows on the beachside. This study also investigates the extent to which demographic variables such as age and gender influence these perceptions.

Fatai A. Aremu contributes the fifth article in this issue, “Between Conflict and Cooperation: Trends and Contending Perspectives in Asia’s Energy Conundrum.” This article examines the energy implications of the unprecedented growth in the economies of Asia’s giants (ie, China and India). The article explores the nature of the key energy issues, policy responses to those issues, and the missing links therein, and makes some policy-relevant and actionable recommendations.

Finally in this issue, we feature a second installment of our new section, “Reflections from In and Out of the Field.” In this photo-essay, Marvin Marcus provides an insightful and evocative meditation on the urban landscape of Kyoto, and shares with us his perceptions of the city through the photographic gaze of the outsider.

Our book reviews this issue span works specifically on East and Northeast Asia and on the Asia Pacific in general. Topics range from the “The Making of Northeast Asia” by Erik Mobernd to “Human Rights in the South Pacific: Challenges and Changes” by David Webster. Each book is considered by our reviewers to have made a serious contribution

to Asia Pacific Studies, although some editors and proofreaders in some publishing houses seem to need to concentrate a little more on their tasks!

Note

1. Editor's email address: ap-world@apu.ac.jp

Biographies

Seth Mberego is a PhD student at the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, and works as Editorial Assistant for *Asia Pacific World*.

Malcolm J. M. Cooper is the Chief Editor of *Asia Pacific World*. He is also Pro Vice President for International Research Affairs and Professor of Tourism Management at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University.